

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

Vol. LXVII.]

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BIRTHS.

On February 24th, at Shanghai, the wife of M. GOLDMAN, of a son.
On February 24th, at Shanghai, the wife of K. W. CAMPBELL, of a son.
On Sunday, 1st March, 1908, at Calçada do Gambon, Macao, the wife of R. A. COATES, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On February 23rd, at Shanghai, BERTHA LAZAREVITCH, of Herzon, Russia, to AUGUST HERZBERG, of Shanghai.
On February 27th, at Shanghai, JULIA HUNTER WOODWARD to the Rev. JOHN WILLIAMS NICHOLS.
On February 28th, at Shanghai, ANDREW EDWARD SANDBACH to JANE GORDON OUDNEY.

DEATHS.

On February 24th, at Sumatra, THOMAS RIACH, son of the late John Riach of Shanghai.
On February 26th, at Shanghai, O. F. FISHER, aged 35 years.
On February 28th, at Shanghai, ESTHER CHATHAM, widow of the late John Chatham, aged 45 years [suicide].
At the Peak Hospital on March 4th at 6 p.m. DON PEDRO ROBLEDO, Spanish Doctor.
At Sedan, France, Madame J. C. PERCEBOIS, formerly of Shanghai, mother of Mr. D. Percebois, Imperial Chinese Customs Service.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail of February 6th arrived, per the s.s. *Prinz Ludwig*, on Tuesday, the 3rd instant; and the English Mail of February 7th arrived, per the s.s. *Marmora*, on Thursday, the 5th instant.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

A burglary at 14 Beaconfield Arcade was reported to the police on March 1. During the night the premises of Messrs. Sayce and Co. were entered and cigarettes, razors, etc., to the value of \$52 were stolen.

On March 1st a well dressed Chinaman in jumping from a car while it was in motion got in front of another car and was knocked down and rendered unconscious. He was taken to the hospital and died shortly after admission.

It is reported in official circles that the Chinese Emperor is so ill that H.E. Viceroy Tuan Fang has been ordered to send the well-known physician, Chên Lien-fang, up to Peking to give medical advice. Chên has been successful on previous occasions in prescribing for his Majesty.

On March 3rd the body of a Chinese who has not yet been identified was found near the sixth mile stone on the Taipo Road with its throat cut. The circumstances certainly point to the man having been murdered, but so far the police have not been able to trace those responsible for the deed.

A telegram from Peking reports that, with regard to the Japanese steamer "Tatsu Maru," which was recently arrested at Kinchen, near Macao, the Waiwupu has instructed Viceroy Chang Jen-chun to settle the matter with the Japanese Consul at Canton and the captain of the steamer in an amicable way.

Messrs. E. S. Kadoorie & Co. are in receipt of telegraphic advices from Singapore informing them that the crushing of the Raub Australian Gold Mining Co. Ltd. for the past four weeks yielded 1,223 ozs. gold from 7,243 tons stone, and by cyanide process 209 ozs.—extra 476 ozs.—thus making a total of 1,908 ozs.—in all.

A *Daily Press* telegram dated Tokyo, March 2nd said:—The *Kokumin* newspaper states that a report has been received at Tokyo to the effect that the Empress Dowager of China is about to abdicate the throne in favour of the Emperor, and that she has instructed Viceroy Chang Chih-tung and Yuan Shih-kai to act as advisers to the Emperor.

The passengers by the P. & O. intermediate steamer "Borneo" which arrived on March 2nd included Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Oakley. Mr. Oakley is a brother of Mrs. H. E. Pollock, and has previously been stationed in Hongkong. He has now come out as Superintending Engineer of the Admiralty Works, succeeding Mr. A. D. Shortridge, who returns to England this month.

It is noteworthy that as soon as the British ships had left the waters of the delta and the West River there should be another piracy, and that the robbers should have got off. The captain of a junk reports that he was attacked by some men who carried off sixty keowone tins from his cargo and then disappeared. The papers have taken up the matter, pointing out that this sort of thing must not be allowed or foreigners will again interfere.

Another robbery was reported on March 4th at the Paris Toilet Company's premises. The sum of \$230 was stolen from a drawer.

A *Daily Press* telegram dated Tokyo, March 5th said:—Count Okuma at an Indo-Japanese dinner, dwelt on the relation between Japan and India over a period of 1300 years and expressed his admiration of English rule in that empire. He emphasised the necessity of Indians proving themselves worthy of self-government before they could reasonably expect autonomy. He took this opportunity of explaining that his commercial speech at Kobe some months ago had been grievously misinterpreted and invested by many newspapers with a political meaning that he never intended it to convey. All he had done was to urge upon his compatriots the necessity of availing themselves of every opportunity to extend their export trade with India which at present amounted only one tenth of the value of the imports. Mr. John H. Gubbins, C.M.G., of the British Embassy was present.

INQUEST AT KULANGSU, AMOY.

SUSPICIOUS DEATH OF A LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER

An inquest was held at the British Consulate before H. B. M's Consul, Mr. P. E. O'Brien-Butler, sitting as Coroner, on the 20th and 22nd February concerning the death of Mr. George Russell, aged 27, a light keeper in the service of the I.M.C., who was found on the verandah of a house occupied by Mr. Yokoyama, on the morning of the 19th February, seriously injured. Mr. C. A. V. Bowra, the Commissioner, and Mr. Nielsen, Inspector of Lights were in court on behalf of the I.M.C., and the Municipal Police were represented by the Superintendent.

A number of witnesses having been called, the finding was as follows:—

"Death from exhaustion from bleeding and exposure to cold. The wounds were not inflicted by any lethal weapon but probably arose from the deceased's falling against some stone of sharp substance. The attention of the Police is called to the fact that the man had previously been in doubtful company and had been robbed."

As a sequel to the foregoing, in the Mixed Court, on the 26th February before Mr. Ch'ân Hung Yün, Mixed Court Magistrate—with Mr. L. Giles, of the British Consulate, sitting as Assessor, Yui Gwoit Sui, 34, brothel keeper, native of Kulangsu, Go Teh Ah, 29, chair coolie, native of Hua an and Lee Khit, 24, house coolie, native of Kulangsu, were charged by the Superintendent of Police, with being concerned in robbery from the person of George Russell, a sum of money, a silver watch and a cheque book, on the early morning of the 19th inst. The prisoners were found guilty, and Yui Gwoit Sui was sentenced to six months' cage and three years' imprisonment, and the other two prisoners to six months' cage and two years' imprisonment each.

AUSTRALIAN ARMY REFORM.

(Daily Press, March 2nd.)

Australia advances. We have heard recently of the Colony's naval enterprise, and the latest mail brings word of military reforms in the island continent, projected in the press, if not actually mooted by the legislators. The hitherto existing Defence Act practically upset in Australia the principle which stands in the way of compulsory training in the Mother Country, although it did not provide for the training of a single unit. According to a Sydney writer, it "specified in cold blood the different drafts in which the manhood of the country—absolutely untrained—would be rushed to the front." Now it appears it is to give place to a system entirely recast. Details are still to come, but from the published comments it is possible to glean a conception of some of the ideas that confront those who are leading the van of the new Imperialistic (or national?) movement in the Colony. One idea that might have been expected from a community so imbued with the democratic spirit promises an army modelled on a mixture of primitive American and late Boer simplicity. "All the tinsel and music and ceremony of the military life will be stripped away—the bright uniforms, the bands, the ceremonial of saluting." We concur with the view of the "Lone Hand" that this would be "hardly wise." No doubt in some armies too much attention has been paid to technique, and the science of manslaughter could have been developed without so much devotion to "goose step" marching and pipeclay parades. It is important to recognise, however, that the democratic ideal, beautiful as it appears in the eyes bent on the sacred liberty of the individual, cannot be fitted anywhere into the organization of a properly disciplined and effective fighting force. A consistent democrat cannot be a good soldier, any more than a consistently selfish person can be a good Christian. Old-fashioned military traditions on which time and money is still wasted could probably be pruned with advantage, but the reformers should go very deliberately and cautiously to work in this direction. No coldly democratic philosophy or logical formula can adequately account for the spinal thrill that agitates the average man who hears his national anthem or some familiar military march played in certain circumstances; and yet that thrill is a symptom of an emotion that inspires deeds of patriotism and "derring-do," and it has to be taken into account. Half a hundred men with a good officer, habituated by a long training to the unanimity or discipline that ensues such "mummeries" as saluting, regimental colour bearing, and so on, will beat hundreds of untrained units assembled in a mob that follows, if it follows at all, some chance-chosen bell-wether of the flock, according as the dictates of its individual intelligence permit. These things are not mere devices to attract recruits; they form the soldiers' ritual of duty, and appeal, it may be only subconsciously, to the most intellectually alert as well as to the most phlegmatic unit of the corps. Even masculine human nature "is a feminine and self-contradictory sort of thing," which means that there are hidden well-springs of feeling and motive that logic may not approve but common-sense reason must take into account. American democratic ideals long ago encountered this obstacle, and failed to remove it; they had to creep under it. So will Australian democracy, if it wants to achieve effective forces of defence.

THE CHINA PONY.

(Daily Press, March 3rd.)

Probably the last place where we should look for a panegyric of our old friend the China pony would be in the Homeric tale of the Siege of Troy; yet there is very little doubt that the horses of the Thracian king Rhesos, whom old Homer in the tenth book of his Iliad describes as the "handsomest and biggest" that he had ever seen, were really and veritably nothing else than the sometime despised, and to our modern eye ugly Mongolian pony, who for the last half century has been winning, or losing, our money on the racecourses of modern China. Of course Homer spoke comparatively when he called the China pony handsome, but probably he was not so far out in his description as we might suppose. The horse, as we know him to-day, was in Homeric times of but recent introduction in the Mediterranean region. It was not till the beginning of the "New" Empire, about sixteen centuries B.C., that we find the "horse and his chariot" naturalised in Egypt, the highest equine type previously having been the ass; and the horse came in with the primitive Arab hordes who, under the name of Hyksos, for centuries overran Egypt and destroyed the old civilisation. The Mediterranean horse of Homer's day can have been hardly larger than our modern Shetland pony, who by the time of Herodotus had been driven to the wild regions north of the Danube, where he describes them as long-haired, small, flat-nosed, and unable to carry men. In fact nowhere in those early days do we hear of horses as having been ridden, but always as yoked to carriages, and not unlikely the first reason for this fact was their small size. These horses of Rhesos then struck the bard naturally as something larger and finer than he had ever seen, and it is interesting so to look into their other characteristics. "They were whiter than snow," he tells us, "and like to the winds for speed," and the frames attached to them, for chariots as yet were not, were ornamented with silver and gold, while the king himself had harness of gold, "a wonder to see."

The story of these Thracians is not less interesting. They had lately come to help king Priam in his defence of Troy. Dolon, a Trojan youth, had been sent as a spy to report on the doings of the Greeks, and the number of their ships, and had been noticed by some of the enemy, who however, decided to let him go on, while they laid a trap to catch him returning; under evasive promises of safety they contrived to pump him, and get out information regarding the late arrivals, when regardless of his word Diomedes rushed at him and killed him. The "Thracians" had, he learned, but recently arrived; they had come from a great distance, further than any of the others, and were under command of king Horsa, son of Eioneus (Hloni), and were at the time resting themselves after the fatigues of the march. Amongst the old Greeks Thrace had a very indefinite meaning; it lay north of Thessaly, but how far it extended they knew not. Literally it was at the back of Berytus, and like that equally indefinite country was the natural home of wonders, so we need not be surprised that from such a region should have come these snow-white steeds. Now not many months ago (*Daily Press*, May '07) we showed how these snow-white horses were actually as late as the 4th century B.C. still living on the banks of the Dniester, and that in all respects they answered perfectly to the Mongol pony of half a century ago. But more; in this same country,

where these white horses ran wild, lived men whom the Greeks called Agathyrsi, and these Agathyrsi we have the authority of Herodotus for stating, were "most luxurious folk, and wear a profusion of gold." Having got rid of Dolon, the Greeks proceeded to attack these Thracians, of whose whereabouts he had informed them. They found them, "sleeping, overcome with fatigue; and their armour lay about on the ground, carefully piled in order in three lines. By each man was a yoke of horses, and in the midst slept Horsa, his swift horses tied by the reins to the outer rim of the carriage." The Greeks finding them at their mercy did not hesitate to attack the sleeping enemy, and had already killed twelve of them, while Ulysses, eager for plunder, drove off the horses towards the ships. The rout, however, awoke the rest of the sleepers, and the Greeks, in their turn taken by surprise, and thinking discretion the better policy, rushed for their lives back. Here they met Nestor, who seeing the steeds, and full of admiration at their beauty, thus addressed the band:—"Tell me, most excellent Ulysses, how in the name of fortune you got hold of these horses? They're just like the rays of the sun, and old a soldier as I am, I never yet saw such lovely steeds. Surely some of the gods must have sent them!"

As we mentioned in our former notice the China pony, insignificant as he seems in our time, really had his days of glory when he seemed to the old Greeks a meet gift for the gods. Homer's episode recalls the fact that even in his days, about 800 B.C., the horse, which we are accustomed to look upon as contemporary with man, had not yet reached the Mediterranean regions, and that the animal with which we are accustomed to connect the wars of the ancient Greeks was little more than a diminutive Shetland, too small in those days to be ridden. The other animal, whose arrival was a revelation to the Greeks, and a model of all that a horse should be, was such a thick set, shuffling animal as was the Mongol pony of fifty years ago, before the treachery of the Chinese had rendered it necessary to send out the Indian cavalry to chastise the ill faith of the Taku Forts. But his history goes back still further to the time when he wandered over the half frozen steppes of eastern Europe, and was hunted for his flesh by the palaeolithic savages who then constituted the most advanced of humanity. Curiously the white horses of Homer have almost disappeared, and the Mongol pony of to-day, though still white is the dominant colour, would scarcely answer the description of being whiter than snow. The process has not, however been one of extinction, nor destruction, but the contrary one of improvement; and all this has taken place within fifty years, as contrasted with the tens of thousands during which the type remained unchanged.

A CHINA COAST PROPHET.

(Daily Press, March 4th.)

Breath of mind comes by travelling, so travellers often say; and some of us who have sojourned for a while in the "outposts of Empire" are fond of quoting Kipling's "What do they know of England who only England know?" Sometimes we quote it correctly, but generally with a tone, an air, indicating that we really mean, "What do they know in England?" It is a fine contempt that some of us acquire for insularism and narrowness, the existence of which (possibly conscious of a much needed

mental growth that not long back favoured us) we complacently assume to be more general than it is perhaps in reality. It will do some of us no harm to ask ourselves in all sincerity, and faithfully and truly to reply to our own queries, if it be not possible that breadth of mind is compatible with staying at home, and, more important still, if it is not just within the bounds of possibility that a man who puts oceans between the scene of his career and the place of his origin may not bring his narrowness with him and hold and retain it in spite of experience. This spasm of conscience, this hint of the advisability of an occasional introspective investigation, is prompted by some obiter dicta appearing in the *London Standard*, over the initials "F. I. B." We have not the faintest clue to the identity of the author, who mentions that he has been in China for thirty-one years, and we have no doubt that as a man of affairs in this part of the world he has deserved and established a reputation for sapience, savvy, and sincerity, more flattering to his character than the collocation of initials over which he writes. We do venture to suggest, however, and trust that thereby we are not treading too heavily on some worshipful toes, that in our poor opinion he assesses the intelligence of the people at Home on too low a level, and that by his writings we greatly fear he must have tempted *Standard* readers to return the compliment to our discredit. Whether our residence in China have been for 31 years or less, there are many of us who would shrink from letting our patriotic fear of Asiatic competition betray us into the truly amazing conclusions of "F. I. B." on labour questions as they affect the development and maintenance of British commercial prestige. Foolishly as the British workmen seem to behave at times, we should not under-rate their intelligence. Some of them are far from being fools, and what they will say of "F. I. B.'s" solemn warnings we do not care to think. Certainly we dare not print its probable tenour in our decent pages. Talking of the industrious Chinese and Japanese workman, "F. I. B." goes on to say that it behoves the British workman, if he is to hold his own, not to quarrel with an increase in the hours of labour, or even with lessened pay, otherwise within 30 years this and many other trades will have completely passed out of our hands, unless I am mistaken. It simply means the survival of the fittest, longest, and hardest workers in the world, whoever they may prove to be, and of whatever nationality, who will secure the trade. Mark that—it may not be the Asiatic, but it must be the people who will bow to those conditions, and no other; and the sooner Britishers recognise that fact the better, and then they will drop strikes, and trade unions, and the absurd—too absurd—notions of the Socialist, which are an impossibility.

We have been brought up and nurtured in the faith that Britain's national life depends upon its trade, and it is as easy to make us shudder by pointing out any falling off as it was for the Fat Boy in "Pickwick" to make a certain dame's flesh creep. The picture irresistibly called up in the foregoing quotation, however, of the British masses working for longer hours, working harder, and for less wages, in order to keep pace with the Asiatic labourer compels us to face the heretical poser, "Would it really be worth while?" Survival at such a cost would seem too dear; better strikes, trade unionism, aye, and even silly socialistic experiments. But lest this mood lead us into extravagance, let us listen again to "F. I. B." and try to sympathise with him as he weeps.

Having been away from England for 31 years in China, I can see the future downfall of British trade, which I have watched

carefully, perhaps more clearly than the stay at home; and, though not a commercial man, I am deeply interested and, I need not add, concerned in Great Britain's future. I must confess the prospect almost makes me weep, for I have seen our trade fast passing into, first, other European nations' hands, and now, in the second place, into Asiatic hands, that still more quickly, for practically already the Japanese have the coasting trade of the East in their power, due to their smaller working expenses and their incessant industry. Let Britishers not be deceived, but wake up to this warning, for the man in the street can see for himself, if he honestly takes the trouble to consider it, that we must polish up our only weapons of defence, viz., harder work, better class of work, longer hours at less pay, and the necessity of remembering what seems quite to have been lost sight of—that what is good for the employer is good also for the employed, and the necessity of pulling together to keep British trade out of the pitfalls that daily threaten it.

Almost he persuadeth us to join the red flag of Keir Hardie and his foolhardy following of social innovators. The remedy is so plain, and so very, very, unpalatable. "Longer hours at less pay," and with that, the saving reflection, so easily lost sight of, that "what is good for the employer (i.e. 'longer hours at less pay') is good also for the employed." The obiter dicta of a gentleman who has been 31 years in China demand more reverential treatment than we feel able to give them. Therefore we had better stop right here.

THE SOCIALISTS AND REGICIDE.

(Daily Press, March 5th.)

It is entirely satisfactory to note how universal is the horror with which the regicidal crimes of Lisbon have been denounced, and while the gentler feelings of human nature have doubtless been outraged by the spectacle of the heart-stricken wife and mother, we are glad further to think that the general ex-ecration is as much due to an intelligent recognition of the uselessness of such coarsely brutal methods of redressing grievances. We do not attach much importance to the reported socialistic demonstrations in the Parliaments of Berlin and Paris, because so far we have only newspaper reports written evidently under stress of indignation at the apparent bad taste of those who failed to join in the expressions of public disapproval. As we cannot believe that the intelligent socialists of the Reichstag approve of such useless methods—murdering monarchs being on a par with resisting an incoming tide with a broom—though they may disapprove of many features of monarchism, we do them the justice of supposing that there was perhaps some tactless reference to themselves which annoyed them by suggesting sympathy on their part with crimes that they probably hold as much in abhorrence as does the staunchest monarchist in the other parties. The Rev. R. J. CAMPBELL, an avowed Socialist, has shared the common error of those who assume that the criminals were necessarily political malcontents. He said at the City Temple that "the misguided people who perpetrate such crimes are not the true friends of liberty, or progress, or of the toiling masses of the workers. The Kingdom of God will never be won by violence and bloodshed. Such a dastardly deed excites universal horror and detestation in a country in which not very long ago the King of Portugal was an honoured guest." And he went on to make the quite unnecessary addition, "It behoves us to pray for the safety of our own beloved Sovereign, the foremost statesman

in Europe, and the greatest guarantee for the peace of the world. God save the King." There is not the remotest likelihood that any but a madman would dream of attacking His Britannic Majesty, and any pretended Anarchist, Terrorist, or Socialist who might be found planning such a crime would be summarily denounced by those very people whom many suspect of sympathising with this form of crime. His Majesty and all his family owe their personal safety, not only to their popularity among their subjects, (for as at Lisbon, it is usually aliens who act so madly) but also to the indulgent methods with which England treats and keeps in check the discontented creatures of the gutter class. It is the velvet glove method that pacifies. The Portuguese have been brought up for a long time in the strict faith of representative government and constitutionalism, and the mere word "dictatorship" must have had a very ugly look for them. Imagine how Englishmen would feel in 1908 over methods like Senhor Franco's, and then it is easy to make allowances, not for the murderers, but for an excitable people mourning under a double sense of loss and of disgrace. It is not improbable, and some indications have in fact been noted, that the criminals were not political discontents at all, but mercenaries supposed to have been hired by corrupt scoundrels whom the dictatorship was intended to dispossess and suppress. Yet, according to the voluminous press comments received by the last mail, there was some suspicion that the late King CARLOS had absolutist inclinations. We append a typical comment:

King Carlos had come to the conclusion that the statesman who seemed most likely to cope successfully with the task of carrying on the King's Government in Portugal was Senhor Franco, lately a member of the Ribeiro Cabinet, who had made himself conspicuous by the vigour with which he demanded thorough reform in every department of the State and the inauguration of a new regime of honesty and economy. So the Cortes were abruptly dissolved on May 11 of last year, and no date was named for their re-assembling, though it has recently been announced that the new elections would take place in April. The Dictator at once adopted the principle of "Thorough." He replied to the violent denunciations of the politicians by threatening to suppress their newspapers. When they continued to attack him, he fulfilled his threat, and the liberty of the Press ceased to exist. He established the most vigorous censorship and suppressed public meetings. He has carried out his administrative measures with unsparing vigour, but the work of actual constructive reform does not seem to have begun. Indeed, his enemies deride the suggestion of his being a reformer at all, and accuse him of playing the traitor to the popular cause by becoming the willing servant of a monarch inclined to absolutism. The Republican writers describe Portugal as "a miniature Russia of the West," and all the politicians combine to denounce the man who has crushed them indiscriminately under an impartial heel. On the other hand most foreigners residing in Portugal express themselves in terms of praise of the Franquist Administration and say that the best hope of Portugal lies in a period of strong and resolute government. It would seem as though the King and his Minister had underrated the forces opposed to them, though they probably considered that as long as the army remained loyal they had little to fear.

Very significant was the statement of a witness in the appeal case now before their Lordships of the Supreme Court. This Chinese said that he had last year re-written the books of the firm for 1906, and when he asked the reason for this he was informed that it was necessary to do so in order not to show any payments to Government officials. This is one of the first candid confessions of a practice that was generally suspected last year.

CHINA AND CANADA.

Daily Press, March 6th.

It seems there are actually people, British people, who are unconvinced of the justice of China's claim against the Canadian Government for compensation for the damages inflicted upon Chinese subjects during the anti-Asiatic riots at Vancouver last September. China is said to be claiming about £26,000, but the amount does not matter at present. It will be a question of fact; what we are now concerned with is a question of principle, of simple honour. We have seen comments indicating some amusement at China's "cheek" in this connection; the colloquialism must pass because it is the only one that accurately fits the tone. Whenever in the last half century or more there have been disturbances in the Chinese provinces, generally somewhere near to a Treaty Port, and the subjects of Treaty Powers, including British, have suffered, the Chinese Government has always been fined for it, and has always paid. The argument has been that the Peking Government, whether it could or could not have prevented the disorders, was responsible. It ought to set about making its administration effective throughout the whole Empire, and then it would not have to pay so much monetary compensation for damages caused within its borders. This was quite reasonable, and the only reason for this recapitulation is that it ought in honour to be remembered when considering the present claim against Canada. It is true that in the past Chinese subjects in foreign countries have frequently suffered without getting compensation or the active sympathy of their Government, and it may also be true that if Japan's claim in connection with the Vancouver riots had not been made and admitted, China's might not have been heard of. That does not affect the justice of the present demand, however. Previous neglect cannot be held to vitiate China's present determination to do its duty to its subjects and protect their rights. Nor ought we to be swayed, of course, by the reflection that Japan could perhaps demand where China has to beg. When the claim is formally presented to Canada, and its details passed as according with facts, we take it Canada cannot reasonably hesitate to admit its liability. The British Imperial Government cannot afford to countenance any quibbling in a case of the sort.

CORRESPONDENCE.

"TATSU MARU II."

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS,"]

Macao, February 20th.

SIR,—In some if not most accounts of the seizure of the "Tatsu Maru II," it has been stated that the steamer was "only waiting for high tide, to proceed into the Port of Macao." As the steamer was drawing 23 feet and the highest water on the bar is between 16 and 17 feet, she could not have entered the Port, without discharging her cargo in Chinese water. To do this, she would have to apply to the local office here, of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs, and obtain a "Hu-chao" (or permit) which would have been granted without any trouble or expense to the ship. If that had been done in this case, everything would have been in order, and there would have been no question of either her or the Portuguese authorities ignoring all Treaty rights, which is now, evidently, the sore point with the Chinese.—Yours faithfully,

P. M. H.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held on March 5th in the Council Chamber.

PRESENT:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, SIR FREDERICK JOHN DEALTRY LUGARD, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O.

Hon. Mr. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. Mr. W. REES DAVIES, (Attorney-General).

Hon. Mr. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. Mr. W. CHATHAM, C.M.G. (Director of Public Works).

Hon. Mr. A. W. BREWIN (Registrar-General).

Hon. Commander BASIL R. H. TAYLOR, R. N. (Harbour Master).

Hon. Dr. HO KAI, M.B., C.M., C.M.G.

Hon. Mr. H. E. POLLOCK, K.C.

Hon. Mr. WEI YUK.

Hon. Mr. E. OSBORNE.

Mr. A. G. M. FLETCHER (Clerk of Councils).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and confirmed.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by direction of H.E. the Governor, laid on the table Financial Minute No 8, and moved that it be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND BUILDINGS ORDINANCE (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, and the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS seconded.

HIS EXCELLENCY said.—I rise to speak to a Bill of somewhat unusual interest and importance, an Ordinance to amend the Public Health and Building Ordinance of 1903. The Commission which my predecessor appointed reported as long ago as 18th April last. It may seem that a somewhat unusually long time has elapsed since the Government was in a position to bring forward the present Bill; but I would remind you that an Ordinance was passed in June last to deal with certain aspects—viz. open spaces, scavenging lanes, and other urgent matters. The Officer Administering the Government found it necessary to appoint a committee to report more precisely as to recommendations which should be put forward in the matter of cubicles. The report of the committee was received in August last. Then the question as to the relations between the Sanitary Board and the Building Authority was a matter which necessitated exhaustive inquiry by experts and the report of those who were appointed to deal with that question has only been comparatively recently received by the Government. Many of the earlier recommendations of the Commission involved executive action which did not necessitate any amendment of the law, and in many respects this executive action has been taken, or is being taken. The Bill incorporates a large number of amendments which were found necessary, from time to time, since the Principal Ordinance was passed in 1903, and have taken considerable time and work. I could wish that my predecessor had been here to carry through the legislation which the Bill incorporates. He would have dealt with it with more ability, and with more fluency of speech than I am able to command. But I will not yield to him in my endeavour to fully maintain the interests of the colony and of the community, or in the efforts which I have used to that end. I would first remind you of the history and constitution of the Commission whose report may be said to be the immediate preceding cause of the present legislation. Complaints

had been made by the unofficial members of the Sanitary Board and others that the hands of some of the subordinates of the staff of the Sanitary Board were not as clean as they might be, and that some bribery and corruption existed. The idea was conceived by my predecessor of appointing the unofficial members of the Sanitary Board to investigate those charges, more especially because those who were accused were government officials. The terms of reference to the committee were expanded into an inquiry into the administration of the sanitary law, and Sir Matthew Nathan in preceding correspondence expressly said he had no intention of modifying the law, and that the committee was not appointed to that end. Afterwards the terms of reference were extended to investigate the "inconsiderate action of the officials" in enforcing the law and to investigate certain charges of irregularity and corruption and secondly whether the administration of the existing law was satisfactory—not whether the law was adequate, which as I have said was expressly excluded. The investigation into the conduct of the officials could, of course, not be conducted without the power to compel witnesses to attend, and to take evidence, and therefore the committee became a commission. I have laid some stress on this point because I think it has been assumed that the Commission was a representative one with unlimited scope of investigation. That was not so. No Government official sat among its members to assist them; the Commission being entirely of members of the Sanitary Board. If the scope of its investigations had been unlimited I think we might naturally suppose that a larger sphere of interest and experience would have been represented on the Commission than were represented by the able and public spirited and experienced gentlemen who formed the unofficial members of the Sanitary Board. I have, gentlemen, nothing but admiration for the way in which the Commission attacked the problems before it. For a space of nearly a year they gave up their private time to the investigation, and they brought to bear on that work great capacity, and industry, and large local knowledge. Though the scope extended beyond what was the original intention of the Government and covered the ground that had been covered by two previous Commissions from England, in 1892 and 1898, by Messrs. Osborne and Chadwick, they nevertheless made some very useful suggestions, some of which are embodied in the Bill before us; and some of which have already been given effect to by executive action. I would remind you that one of these Special Commissions to which I have alluded—the second of them—submitted a draft bill on Public Health and Buildings which formed the basis of our Public Health and Buildings Ordinance of 1903. The report of the Commission gradually assumed the form of a severe criticism both of the past and present action of the Government. It included matters which had been settled by the Secretary of State, but as there was no official sitting on the Commission who was familiar with the correspondence between the Government and the Secretary of State, who might have been able to correct the misapprehensions, old controversies were awakened which had been sifted by the different Governors at different times, and the remedies which appeared most suitable had been applied with the concurrence of the Secretary of State. But it is impossible to rise from a perusal of the report, and the evidence which supports it, without feeling that the Colony owes a very great debt of gratitude to those public spirited gentlemen, who, as I have said, devoted such a large portion of their time to the investigation of these public questions. Under the circumstances that originated that Commission, which I have described, honourable members will, I think, agree that it was my bounden duty to very carefully investigate their various recommendations—which have been made by the committee which was not representative of the whole community—before the bill was produced which is now before us. I have given very careful consideration and much thought to the

report of the committee, and with some of their proposals, I do not find myself in agreement—I speak only of some of their proposals—nor do I think that they represent the wish of the entire community. Of these I will speak presently. The bill before you, like the report of the commission itself, deals with a vast amount of detail, into which I do not propose to enter. I will confine myself in my observations to the larger principles. Attached to the bill is a statement of the objects and reasons of each clause and we shall be able to consider these in committee when we discuss the bill clause by clause. There is no clause in the bill referring to corruption or bribery, which involves executive action, but no alteration of the law, and in no direction did the committee do better service than they did in exposing certain malpractices. You will recollect that the government took immediate and effective action in regard to the disclosures made. I think myself the best way to prevent such malpractices would be the appointment of a working head of the department who will be able to keep the subordinates under his immediate discipline and control. That brings me to the question of the administrative head of the department and the Presidency of the Sanitary Department. No change is intended, or is contained in the present Bill now before us or in the general principle which was embodied in section 3 of Ordinance 23 of 1903. Experience has proved and the Commission very forcibly pointed out that it is not advisable for the Principal Medical Officer to combine the duties of administrative head of the department with the many arduous and responsible duties he has as Principal Medical Officer, nor do I think myself that it is sound in principle that the expert of the Board, whose views may be set aside on the finances or policy, should himself be president of the Board. The Principal Civil Medical Officer agrees with this view but if he is to effectually be relieved of his duties as administrative head of the department and president of the Board and resume his proper position as independent adviser to the Government he should, I think, no longer be a member of the Board at all nor do I think he, having been president, should be relegated to any less responsible position. I see myself no reason why the Medical Officer of Health should not have a seat on the Board. It has been urged that he is a servant of the Board responsible for carrying out the decisions of the Board, but the President is no less a servant of the Board to carry out its decisions so it seems to me to be no anomaly that he who carries out the decisions of a corporate body should be a member of that body. It seems to me an anomaly that he should not be so. The fact that he has a vote is likely to enhance his sense of responsibility. His opinions are made public and recorded in the proceedings of the Board. The Sanitary Board weigh this expert opinion against the question of finance and policy and the majority decide what shall be the issue. The Bill before you substitutes the Medical Officer of Health for the Capt. Superintendent of Police. I am well aware that this point is arguable and has been argued before and I do not feel disposed to insist upon it if the views of the majority are obviously against it. The Government propose that the new head of the department to take the place of the Principal Medical Officer should be a cadet officer with experience of the Chinese, in the Chinese language, and of proved administrative capacity. In this view I believe the Commissioners agree. It would however, gentlemen, be idle for me to burke the real issue which the Commission raised—whether the administrative head of the department should be responsible to the Sanitary Board or to the Government. I have given very careful consideration to this point, and I cannot see how an officer who is appointed by the Crown and paid by the Crown—an officer who holds his position by the pleasure of the Crown and whose career is bound up in the efficiency of the department, and who can only be censured or removed by the Government he serves, can be responsible to any other body but the Government. It is not analogous to quote the case of a company, whose chairman is a servant of the directors. A chairman of a company can be removed or deposed at any time by the directors. If he has been appointed under the articles of association

as a permanent chairman these articles can be altered at any time by a meeting of shareholders. The company administers entirely its own funds. As an executive head of the department he is senior officer to many other officers also in Government employment who are also appointed and discharged by Government. It seems to me he must be like every other head of a department, amenable to the Government. The recommendations of the Commission on this point were signed by the whole of the members but I think I am correct in saying that more than one agrees more or less with the view which I have stated. The working head of the department must in my opinion be given full powers of discipline and control of the day to day routine of the department, more especially as the Sanitary Board itself only meets once every fortnight. The Commissioners say that Ordinance 23, the first amending Ordinance of 1903, when passed by this Council, was not fully understood. The memorandum of the Hon. Colonial Secretary which was laid on the table of this Council goes to show that the matter was very fully debated and gentlemen, it seems to me that the complaint of the Commission is somewhat chimerical and groundless when you recollect that by their own showing in their evidence they were unaware for some three or four years that they had been deprived of the power which they thought was essential to their existence. It was not until they began to take evidence that they found out that they had lost the power. However in any case it is interesting to recall the history of the amending Ordinance 23 of 1903. The original draft of the bill (I mean the principal Ordinance) provided for a head for the Sanitary Board because Messrs. Osborne and Chadwick, the experts sent out from England, said that Hongkong was peculiar in having no individual responsible to the Governor or Government for the administration of the sanitary law of the colony. The section, therefore, appointing an administrative head was deleted and the Principal Medical Officer was made chairman of the Board but without any powers. The Secretary of State, in conveying the approval of His Majesty to the Ordinance, pointed out in very forcible terms the practical difficulties which must ensue from having set aside the recommendation of the special commissioners and therefore Ordinance 23 was introduced with I believe the primary intention of creating an administrative head of the department. Those however who view this question from an atmosphere less heated by local controversy and who bring to the aid of their judgment the experience they have gained in other countries and regions come to the conclusion that in order to maintain the efficiency and practical use of the department a working head is necessary. The Secretary of State, and his officers, Messrs. Chadwick and Osborne with their experience and I may add myself with the experience which I have had of administration, are fully convinced that to work successfully and to maintain discipline—which the Commissioners said was lamentably deficient—that there should be a working head who shall devote his whole time and shall be vested with adequate powers and responsibility and whose career shall depend upon the efficiency of the department and who, like his subordinates, shall be responsible to the Government. He shall be responsible for the proper spending of the votes of the Sanitary Department under the control of the Treasury and of the Audit department. The appointment however, of that new head of department which is provided for in this Bill does not in any way diminish the very large powers which the Ordinance confers upon the Sanitary Board. I propose that the head of the department shall before the 31st March of each year lay the estimates before the Sanitary Board for discussion together with any proposals which he may have to make regarding works of a sanitary nature included in the vote for public works extraordinary. I propose that he shall consult the Sanitary Board on all changes giving effect to sanitary by-laws, that he shall inform the Board of any change in the organisation of the staff, that he shall inform them regarding any recommendations for appointment or leave or dismissal of the

European staff, and that he should lay before them any complaint of the public regarding the staff. I have spoken of the financial responsibility of the head of the department and since I am endeavouring to lay before you a faithful exposé of the action of the Government in connection with the report of the Commission, I would refer also to their suggestions on the subject. The Commissioners suggested that the Sanitary Board should have unrestricted power to spend the entire sum voted for the sanitation of the colony. The sum voted for sanitation, gentlemen, is divided under various votes which are authorised and allocated by this Council. If the Sanitary Board is to deal with the sum as a lump sum then the power of this council is taken away and conferred upon the Sanitary Board. A large portion of these votes are concerned with the personal emoluments of officials. These are arranged under agreements and the appointments made by the Crown, and it is not legally possible for any corporate body to alter these salaries. The Commission also suggested that they should have the power of appointing and discharging officers, but it is quite impossible for any corporate body to dismiss officers appointed under the Crown whose rights are safeguarded to them through the representative of the Crown with an ultimate right of appeal to the Secretary of State. Neither do I think it would be to the benefit of the department to be run as a separate concern from the rest of the civil service. You would not get the same class of men, you would not get continuity, which I consider to be necessary to efficiency and success as it is based on accumulative experience. At the present time gentlemen, I think that in this part of the British Empire we prefer to be governed by trained civil servants with an executive council, and with a legislative council representing the community by its most distinguished members, and not by a majority of the Sanitary Board. I pass now to another of the principal questions dealt with in this bill. The Commissioners complained that there had been great delay in the passing of plans and in other matter connected with the Building Authority. They propose as a solution of this that the Sanitary Board should control its own staff of engineers. This must necessarily in a duplication and of course additional cost and I think that Hon. Members will agree with me that at the present time our efforts should be directed towards reducing instead of increasing the expenditure, especially now that the initial work in connection with sanitation has been surmounted. The memorandum prepared by the Hon. Director of Public Works and laid on the table of the Council dealt with the arguments advanced by the Commission in clear and concise terms. He pointed out the overlapping which must occur and the difficulty of discriminating between the officials of the Public Works Department and of the engineering staff of the Sanitary Board. I need not repeat all these arguments which appear to me as they did to my predecessor to be convincing. I recognise however the justice of the complaint of the Commissioners and I agree that the best way to remedy this is that there should be no division of control and that the building authority should be under one department. I think that department should be the Public Works and that the Director of Public Works should be responsible for the duties under the Ordinance which come under the Building Authority. The Bill provides for this and it will be necessary to transfer such officers as are concerned under the Building Authority from the Sanitary Department to the Public Works Department. In a way, in order to expedite business, plans will not have to be signed by the Medical Officer of Health and the Director of Public Works will wherever possible dispense with plans altogether. Financially this will effect a considerable saving. The scheme was really part of what the Commission recommended. The legitimate scheme I do not think myself is compatible with the conditions of this colony. The chief engineer of the Sanitary Board would have to be an officer of equal standing with the Director of Public Works because the Sanitary Board themselves have not the technical knowledge to control a man of lesser standing and experience. That of course

would involve increased cost and it is inevitable that there would be friction. I think also that the Building Authority should be a Government department which has no bias towards property owners who are necessarily largely represented on the Sanitary Board and whose interests it is to serve the community as a whole and to carry out the wishes of the Government. Intending purchasers of land desire to know how they will be dealt with under the Ordinance and they would not wish their proposals to be made public as they must be, if laid before the Sanitary Board. Similarly with regard to the alterations of boundaries, resumptions, etc., it is not desirable that they should be prematurely made public. The Building Authority must know, otherwise plans would be passed which would interfere with designs with regard to roads, drains, water works, etc. Now the Public Works Department deal every day with the verifying of boundaries, covenants and conditions of sale and if the engineering department were separated from the Public Works Department a building might be authorised that would interfere with the levels and alignments of these roads. I agree with the Commissioners that it is absolutely necessary that the Building Authority should be under one department. In order to give effect to this I propose to transfer the senior sanitary surveyor and two clerks from the Sanitary Department to the Public Works department, creating a junior sanitary surveyor with an assistant engineer who should be appointed by the Public Works. Two drainage inspectors will also be transferred as officers of the Public Works Department and these officers are intimately associated with the Building Authority. The cost of the engineering staff proposed by the Commission was £3260 and to that we shall have to pay in addition one senior engineer. The amount involved by the incremental rises under the new scheme will cost £2790. The maximum will be £3345, but that maximum can never be reached as it is impossible that all officers will be similarly drawing maximum rate. There will therefore be a considerable saving. In practice the Public Works Department will serve notices against property owners for certain nuisances such as deficient window area, absence of open space, illegal cock lofts, obstruction in back yards, and that class of nuisances which fall under the purview of the Building Authority. Notices of plans will as now be deposited with the Public Works Department showing how it is proposed to deal with the nuisances and other notices referring to sanitary questions will be issued by the Sanitary Board, as heretofore. Similarly the Public Works Department will deal with house drainage which is part construction. In future owners will have no trouble or expense with regard to plans as to drainage, and it will not be necessary to have duplicate plans and there will only be need for one certificate of completion. Since all structural work will be under one department there will I hope be no further delays. The Commission also advocated an increase in the number of medical officers of health and a decrease in the number of inspectors. Of the three assistant medical officers of health whose salaries are provided in the current estimates one post has been vacant now for a very long time and during the past year one other has been on leave. The Medical Officer of Health has also for some time past been acting as civil veterinary surgeon, yet there has been no complaints of neglect of work or overstrain. That I daresay may be due largely to the great personal energy and experience of the present Medical Officer of Health. In future by the appointment of a head of the department the Medical Officer of Health will be relieved of a great deal of correspondence. I see therefore no necessity for filling up the vacancy which exists and still less for increasing the staff of medical officers of health. It is not possible to substitute medical officers for inspectors. That class of man would not consent to personally supervise cleansing operations, inspect nuisances or control gangs of coolies nor do I think in many cases he would be physically fit to do so nor has he the training for such work. Hence however I do not propose to increase the staff of medical officers of health I do not think the recommendation of the Commission

for the decrease of inspectors has the same weight. They proposed to abolish senior inspectors. These men each supervise two districts with two district inspectors under them. The system seems to me to have been a good one as affording opportunities for promotion and introducing some elasticity. The Medical Officer of Health advocates it but since the Commission urged it and laid great stress upon it I have decided to give it a trial. It can be effected in two ways, either by increasing the number of districts or by relieving the district inspectors of some of their duties, since it is clearly impossible that two men can do the duty of three men already fully employed. In Kowloon, that new and progressive area, we propose to create a new district as was recommended by the Commission, but in Hongkong the creation of new districts would involve such inextricable confusion in land certificates that I do not think it would be advisable to do so. The Medical Officer of Health gives it as his opinion that the number of districts they would have to create would be 12 to 18 so that there would be no decrease in the number of inspectors required. The alternative is to appoint say four inspectors for special duties and these additional men are also very much required in order to provide for vacancies by illness or through the absence on leave of district inspectors. Their pay would be from £140 to £270 per annum, increasing by £15 per annum, that is if they are fully qualified in Chinese otherwise from £165 to £226. It is not possible to raise this rate of pay as otherwise subordinates in other departments of similar grade would have a claim also to have their salaries raised. It is considered enough as it is increased by certain allowances. The Commissioners made no recommendation with reference to plague men and these remain as before. With regard to cattle depots the Commissioners suggested that there should be two inspectors but the Medical Officer of Health is of opinion that three are necessary—one for Kowloon and two for Kennedytown, one for day and for night duty. The Commissioners propose that there should be two inspectors for cemeteries but since the laying out of the cemeteries these will now pass to the Public Works Department as part of the Building Authority. One will probably be sufficient. The Commission recommended two inspectors for disinfecting but probably one will suffice. Only one has been employed and no difficulty has occurred. They urged also that prosecuting inspectors should be abolished. The Medical Officer of Health opposed this on the ground that the time of the district inspectors would be greatly wasted by hanging about the courts and that they would not be able to cope with their duties. I think that by arranging special hours and special days we will be able to satisfactorily arrange and therefore prosecuting inspectors will be abolished. The present staff of inspectors is— for districts 18. Under the new scheme there will be 13 for districts and four extra inspectors for scavenging. Five plague inspectors will remain, also the three inspectors for depots. There will be one disinfecting inspector as before and only the one inspector for cemeteries. The three prosecuting inspectors, the market inspector, and one limewashing inspector will be abolished. Thus we have abolished eight of the inspectors as recommended by the Commission. Some of these have already reverted to their duties in the police, from which service they were temporarily taken. In the matter of limewashing the Commission recommended that half yearly limewashing should be discontinued and we have now arranged that it should be carried out once a year only, since periodic cleansing is enforced and any houses which are found to be dirty may be ordered to be cleansed. The Commission also advised the reduction of the number of interpreters from 17 to 15. We propose that only 4 should be retained. These changes of course, together with those I have indicated with regard to the Building Authority, cannot be brought into operation at once as the engagement of men already employed cannot be arbitrarily cancelled. Our object is primarily reform and not reduction, though the saving which will accrue from the changes I have indicated will amount to between £975 and £1424, that is to say the latter sum is what will be saved when full effect has

been given to the whole of the changes. There are many other matters of detail on which the Commission made recommendations and which involve executive action and not any alteration of law. They have already been carried out as you will have seen from different sessional papers laid on the table of this Council, such for instance as the matter of open spaces. In the matter of cubicles the recommendations of the Commission which reported on this matter last August have been practically adopted in toto with the exception of paragraph nine which referred to pulling down every third house and which was not intended to be carried into operation forthwith but to be kept in view as a theory and as an ideal to be aimed at. Both for structural and financial reasons no action in that direction can be taken at the present time but the recommendations with which I agree in principle will be kept in mind. At the time when the Committee presented their report the Sanitary Board had not I think realised their powers under the proviso 154 on the subject of cubicles, as was pointed out by the hon. member at the end of the table on my 1st (Mr. May). In the years 1903 to 1906 the average number of cases presented to Government for exemption or modification under the Ordinance was 2.75 per annum. Since the date on which the Government pointed out the powers of the Sanitary Board the number of modifications and exemptions which have been recommended involved 4179 floors contained in 2247 houses. Hon. members will I think agree that the Government have recognised the principle that cubicles are a necessity among the Chinese and have taken such steps as are in their power by a house to house inspection which is now nearly completed to harmonise as far as possible the interest of the people with the dictates of sanitation. In conclusion, gentlemen, I would say on behalf of myself and the civil servants who collaborated in preparing the Bill now before you that no effort has been spared to sift to the bottom either the recommendations made by the Commissioners or those coming from any outside source and to give effect in the fullest possible way to every point which appeared to us to be for the public interest and the public wish. I recognise with admiration the public spirit of the unofficial members of the Sanitary Board who devote so much time to the discussion of public affairs. Nothing in this Bill will diminish the large powers given them under the Act with the exception of the transfer of the building authority to the Public Works Department and that has been done in order to carry out the recommendation of the Commission and promote economy and rapidity. The Sanitary Board will still maintain its power of criticism and making known its wishes. The bill, as I have said, only refers to matters which necessitated an alteration in the law. With regard to those matters which involved executive action the bill does not deal as already the Government has given effect to them. There are some other points that are relevant to the discussion and I think I would be best filling the wishes of the community outside these walls if I travelled somewhat beyond the clauses of the bill and explained, as fully as I am able to do, not only the legal action, but the executive action which the Government has taken, and is at present taking, or is to take, to give effect to the recommendations of the Commission. Generally speaking the main desire of the executive and the Government has been to introduce such reform into the law and the procedure as the investigations of the Commission have shown to be necessary; secondly to introduce such other amendments as have been shown to be necessary since 1903, to relax wherever possible with advantage to the community too stringent clauses that were unduly heavy on the Chinese community, and to encourage them by inviting their co-operation in our campaign against disease. I think the appointment of a working head, whose office will be a bureau of information to Chinese inquirers who will work in close cooperation with the Registrar General, will be a new factor, and help to smooth our workings with the poorer class of Chinese, while the street committees, the distribution of information on simple hygiene, will tend in the same direction. I trust that the unofficial members of the Sanitary Board will not

relax their efforts to the same end. There is no doubt that our methods in the past, no matter how necessary, whenever an epidemic raged in our midst have created considerable misgiving in the minds of the poorer classes. Land values have decreased. It is our object to disarm that suspicion among the uneducated portion of the community and to impress on the educated class their responsibilities, and to interest them in cooperation with us. Before I resume my seat I would wish to say one word with regard to the work of the Commission. It is to express my own personal deep regret, a regret which I know is shared by all honourable members, at the absence of the member who represented the Chamber of Commerce in this Council. As chairman of the Commission, working for ten months, he had acquired a profound knowledge of these subjects, which he had kept up-to-date as a constant member of the Sanitary Board. Not we alone, but the whole community, are losers by not having his assistance and valuable criticism in our deliberations on this subject (applause).

Hon Dr. HO KAI:—I do not propose to make any remarks upon the bill now before us. It is not usual to discuss it at this stage. But as the bill is of a very important character, and will make a great many alterations in existing law, and especially in view of the able address from your Excellency I think the second reading of the bill should be postponed for at least a month or six weeks to enable members to thoroughly digest the bill. I only wish that there should be a promised undertaking from the Government that the second reading of the bill will not be proceeded with until this day one month.

Hon. Mr. WEI YUK:—I have great pleasure in seconding that.

HIS EXCELLENCY:—I will gladly assure the honourable member that the bill will not be proceeded with for the space of one month as he asks.

The bill was then read a first time.

CHINESE EMIGRATION ORDINANCE

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the third reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Chinese Emigration Ordinance 1859.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the Bill was read a third time.

HIS EXCELLENCY:—The Council stands adjourned till this day fortnight.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was then held—the Colonial Secretary presiding. The following vote was passed:

PUBLIC WORKS.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of Twenty-two thousand one hundred Dollars (\$22,100) in aid of the vote Public Works Recurrent, Miscellaneous, Typhoon and Rainstorm Damages.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on March 3rd at the Board Room. The Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson (president) presided, and there were also present Hon. Mr. W. Chatham (Vice-President), Dr. W. W. Pearse (Assistant Medical Officer of Health), Hon. Mr. A. W. Brewin (Registrar-General), Mr. H. Humphreys, Mr. Lau Chu-pak, and Mr. G. A. Woodcock, secretary.

PROVISION OF OPEN SPACES.

Correspondence was submitted relative to the provision of open spaces at Nos. 397 and 397b Queen's Road West. The Medical Officer of Health pointed out that this was a scheme for erecting a domestic building on the top of a godown. Yards were being provided on the top of the godown and there was no reason why a scavenging lane should not also be provided on top of such godown with access thereupon to the neighbouring street. He thought the scheme might be accepted on condition that permanent bridges were erected and maintained to the satisfaction of the Director of Public Works.

On the motion of the VICE-PRESIDENT, seconded by Mr. HUMPHREYS, the suggested arrangement was approved.

DEAD BODIES IN BLAKE GARDEN.

Correspondence was placed before members relative to the alleged finding of six dead bodies in Blake Garden. The police report stated that on the 12th February two dead bodies were found in Blake Garden. They were rolled up in rags. One was a Chinese male aged about one year and the other was a female aged about four years. The bodies were not propped up on the seats as stated.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The mortality statistics for the week ending 8th February, 1908, showed that the death rate for the whole Colony, (civil population, British and foreign community,) was 118 per 1000 as compared with 16.4 in the corresponding week of last year. The death rate for the whole Colony, including Chinese, was 22.4 per 1000 as against 2.7 in the corresponding week of last year.

RAT RETURNS.

The number of rats caught in Hongkong during 1907 was 25,265 and in Kowloon 13,255, a total of 38,520. The number of infected rats caught in Hongkong was 16 and in Kowloon 12, a total of 28.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 2nd March.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR F. PIGGOTT).

A NEW BARRISTER.

The Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., moved that Mr. Joseph Anderson formerly known as Hung Kwok Leung be approved, admitted and enrolled to practise as a barrister in that honourable court. He said that his Lordship had before him the affidavits and declaration which had been made in the matter, from which his Lordship would see that Mr. Anderson was admitted at Lincoln's Inn on the 27th May, 1906. There were also the affidavits of identity by the Hon. Mr. Wei Yuk and Mr. Ho Tung, and his Lordship would find on the file an affidavit by Mr. Dixon of Messrs Hastings and Hastings in which he annexed the deposition that Hung Kwok Leung had adopted the name of Joseph Overbeck Anderson.

The Chief Justice said the papers were in order and he had much pleasure in admitting Mr. Anderson to the bar.

Mr. Anderson thanked his Lordship for his kindness.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT.

LAI CHI CHIN AGAIN.

In the action Leung Shun Hing and Wong Tsoi against the Tak Lee Loong firm it was decided by the Puisne Judge that Lai Chi Chin was a partner in the latter firm. Lai Chi Chin appealed against that decision and the appeal came before the Full Court which ordered a rehearing. The case was now heard *de novo*. The Hon. Mr. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro, appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. M. Slade, instructed by Mr. G. K. Hall Brutton, of Messrs. Brutton and Hett, appeared for the appellant.

The Hon. Mr. Pollock stated that when the action was recently before the Full Court his friend said he was prepared to bring forward fresh evidence and their Lordships directed a re-hearing of the issue to be taken before the Full Court. Mr. Pollock then proceeded to open the case for plaintiffs at length, the details of which have already been reported.

The hearing was adjourned.

Wednesday, 4th March.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT.

LAI CHI CHIN AGAIN.

The re-hearing of the action in which Lai Chi Chin appealed against the decision of the

Puisse Judge that he was a partner in the Tak Lee Loong firm was concluded. The Court gave judgment for Lai Chi Chin and held that he was not a partner. The Hon. Mr. Pollock K.C., instructed by Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro, appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. M. Slade, instructed by Mr. G. K. Hall Brutton, of Messrs. Brutton and Hett, appeared for the appellant.

Thursday, 5th March.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT.

THE SWATOW REFORMER.

Their Lordships heard argument on the subject of costs in the action in which In Kai Shing, known now as the Swatow reformer, appealed against the judgment of the Puisne Judge upholding a decision of Mr. Hazeland, the Magistrate, in the extradition case heard before him. It will be remembered that the Full Court, last week, sustained the appeal and discharged In Kai Shing. Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., instructed by Mr. Otto Kong Sing, appeared for the appellant, and the Attorney-General (the Hon. Mr. Rees Davies), instructed by Mr. Bowley, Crown solicitor appeared for the Crown.

The Attorney-General intimated at the outset that he thought he could save the time of the Court by stating that he agreed that the Court had discretionary power to grant costs in such actions.

Sir Henry explained that his application was for costs against the Superintendent of Victoria Gaol. There was the case of the Queen against Jones, which his friend had examined and now conceded that the court had jurisdiction in awarding costs.

The Chief Justice said they should exercise their discretion and award costs in this case.

The Attorney-General intervened with a request to explain why he was prepared to concede the point he had. Their Lordships had decided that the code of Civil Procedure applied in this case.

The Chief Justice did not think the Code of Civil Procedure could be substituted for the Judicature Act. It might be that under the Judicature Act criminal proceedings could be taken, but they certainly could not be taken under the Code of Civil Procedure.

The Attorney-General said he understood his Lordship to say it was not a criminal trial.

The Chief Justice replied that it was criminal proceedings. He could not say that habeas corpus was a civil procedure.

Sir Henry submitted that it was

The Attorney-General asked the Court to exercise its discretion in favour of the Crown or at any rate as far as their Lordships could deem it just to do so. In the case of Bell and Cox, already referred to, the court gave appellant the costs of the appeal but not the costs in the Court below. In this case the points on which his learned friend had succeeded in obtaining their Lordships' judgment were not taken before Mr. Justice Wise in the Court below. So far as the merits of the case were concerned they had won all round. Referring to the form of the application, that their Lordships should grant costs against the Superintendent of Victoria Gaol, he said he did not know what form their Lordships' decision to award costs would take, but he presumed they would be against the Crown.

The Chief Justice—The Crown is not a party. The Attorney-General added that in this case the Officer of the Crown was merely acting in obedience to warrants addressed to him and he submitted that no order could possibly be made against him. If his learned friend obtained costs against that officer he would have the right of action for false imprisonment.

The Chief Justice—Yes, in this case it would be the Crown only.

The Attorney-General—I object to the precedent being established. If costs would lie against the prison officer in carrying out the duty placed upon him it might open the door to actions for false imprisonment.

The Chief Justice—I quite follow you.

The Attorney-General pointed out that the Crown here represented the Chinese Government. Proceeding, he said that he was obliged

to concede that their Lordships had discretionary power, but having regard to all the circumstances and to the fact that the point upon which the appeal succeeded was a purely technical one and on which had not been raised at the last hearing, he would ask their Lordships to say that this was not a case in which costs should be awarded at all.

Sir Henry—I would ask your Lordships to give me costs in the Court below.

The Chief Justice—We are going to. The case is a peculiar one as the error was by the Magistrate, and by the Court in consequence. Under the procedure which has grown up in the Colony we are not surprised—I certainly am not—that a man struggling for his liberty might not have put his whole case before my learned brother. Certainly on the case, as put before us, I find that the man is entitled to regain his liberty and that this is a case in which the costs should be given against the Crown.

Mr. Justice Wise—I concur.

Sir Henry—Before the Magistrate as well?

The Chief Justice—Yes.

KOWLOON BRITISH SCHOOL.

The distribution of prizes at Kowloon British School took place on March 4th, when, as stated elsewhere, Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe undertook the duty instead of Lady Lugard who was prevented by indisposition from attending. There was a good attendance of those interested in the pupils. The proceedings opened with a selection by the girls of the upper form, which was followed by military exercises and singing by the children of the third and fourth forms, after which the infants went through a very pretty fan drill.

Mr. WOLFE said that, before reading the sixth annual report on the work of the school, he would like to make a few remarks on matters which had occurred during the year. As regarded the staff, Mr. James, the headmaster went on leave in the early part of the year and during his absence Mrs. Maine was appointed in his place. He would like to take that opportunity of expressing his appreciation of the manner in which she had discharged her duty. There had been other changes, Mrs. Murray had left the school and in her place Mrs. Drummond had been appointed and Mrs. Robertson who had been temporarily appointed had done very good work. He regretted to say that the attendance had fallen off. Last year the average attendance was 45, which was a decrease of 10 from the previous year, but he was glad to say that during the last two months the average attendance had risen to its original figure of 55. The decrease was accounted for by the removal of the garrison children. A garrison school had been started on the other side, and as children could attend there free, it was only natural that they should go to that school. Another cause of the decline was the outbreak of whooping cough last year which made it necessary to extend the summer holiday. Proceeding, he said that he thought the system of having a two months' holiday in summer was a good one. Last year, for instance, the attendance was so small during summer that it was hardly worth while opening the school. He did not agree with the newspaper assertion that the holidays in Kowloon School were too long. In previous years there had been six weeks holiday in summer and a month at Christmas, but he thought that two months in summer and ten days at Christmas would be a better arrangement as there was always an appreciable falling off in the attendance during summer. As regarded the work of the school, he was glad to be able to report good progress. There were only two subjects which required attention. These were composition and general knowledge. He regretted that no step had been taken to provide a playground for the school, which was required very much indeed, but he hoped that either Mr. Irvine or himself would succeed in getting a piece of ground in the King's Park. Though that was not so near the school as they would like, it would make up the lack in respect of playing ground. Referring to the question of payment of fees in stamps, he explained that, before the schools were started, it was laid down in the regulations that the fees would be collected in stamps. When certain irregularities in schools

with regard to the collection of stamps became apparent he forwarded a circular to the various heads of schools indicating that these irregularities must cease and that they should adhere to the regulations for the collection of fees in stamps. That rule had not yet been printed in the Government Gazette but he would ask the co-operation of all parents in carrying it out. The fees charged at Kowloon School, though they might not think so, were very low, in fact they did not cover working expenses. It was necessary to keep down expenses as far as possible. Shroffs and counting, office would be required, if the fees were collected in money, and by taking payment in stamps that expense, which it would not be fair to put upon the rates, would be obviated. There might be some slight inconvenience but that would be minimised when it was remembered that most people had to go there to get stamps for their home letters. There was now an adequate supply of stamps in the post office, which was open from 7.30 till 4.30. In conclusion he read his report which, as indicated, was of a favourable character.

Mr. WOLFE then presented the prizes.

Other action songs by the children, and a vote of thanks to Mr. Wolfe, concluded the ceremony.

COMPANIES.

HONGKONG ICE COMPANY.

A meeting of the shareholders in the Hongkong Ice Company, Ltd., was held on March 3rd at the offices of the General Managers, Messrs. Jardine Matheson and Company. The Hon. Mr. H. Keswick presided and there were present Messrs. W. Parlange (manager), R. Sutherland, T. S. Forrest, C. H. Ross, L. N. Lee, J. Burton, Ho Fook, Lo Cheung Shui, and R. G. Munro (secretary).

The SECRETARY having read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen. The report and accounts having been in your hands for some days past I propose to take them as read. Our sale of ice during the year 1907 shows a decrease of 483 tons as compared with 1906 figures, but this decrease was to be expected, for during 1906 we had an exceptional demand from shipping and coast ports. The Company's plant and premises are all in excellent order. With a view to meeting threatened opposition from more than one quarter the General Managers considered it advisable to enter into an agreement with the Hongkong Milling Company Ltd., for the purchase of their surplus output of ice from the Junk Bay Flour Mills, such ice being guaranteed of equal purity and clearness to that manufactured at our own works. This arrangement obviated the necessity of extending our plant for some time to come, while the price agreed upon allowed us a fair margin of profit. It has been further arranged with the Hongkong Milling Company that in the event of competition arising, the price first current will be reduced so as to enable us to meet such competition. Before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts and answering so far as I am able any questions you may wish to put, I wish to refer to the early departure of Mr. Parlange, who has most ably and conscientiously filled the post of manager of our company for over twenty years past, and I propose that we should take this opportunity of recording our appreciation of his very valuable services. (Applause.)

There being no questions, the CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report, which was seconded by Mr. SUTHERLAND, and agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. FORREST, seconded by Mr. BARTON, Mr. A. R. Lowe was re-elected auditor.

The CHAIRMAN—That concludes the business of the meeting, gentlemen. Dividend warrants will be ready to morrow.

CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

The thirty-ninth meeting of the shareholders in the above company was held at the offices on Mar. 5. Mr. R. Shawan presided and there were present Messrs. E. Shellim, A. Fuchs, W. Helms, H. W. Slade, G. Frieland, G. J. L.

Tomlin (secretary), K. D. Guadar, J. Orange, J. M. E. Machado, A. H. M. da Silva, and H. F. Hickmann.

The SECRETARY having read the notice convening the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen. The Directors' report and statement of accounts having been in your hands for some time, I will with your permission, adopt the usual system of taking them as read. No doubt the declaration of a \$6 dividend and \$2 bonus, the same as last year, came to many of you as a surprise, but as we had made it, we determined to keep up the record and pay the same dividend, and so we are only adding \$25,648.10 to extra reserve fund. It is certainly true that we watch our reserve fund closely, and try to increase it gradually, but when we added \$30,000.00 to it last year, we could afford to do less this time. The year 1906 did not work out as well as we could have hoped as the losses were extraordinarily heavy, but this is what must be expected to happen occasionally. You will notice from our list of agents that we are now working in Japan, Bombay and Java, where we trust to do well. Looking at our working account for 1907, you will notice that the sum carried forward of \$372,327.8 shows a gain of \$9,452.13 over that of the previous year, which must be considered satisfactory. The Company's Surveyors have reported on the properties under mortgage to us, and we are satisfied that we have ample margin in all cases. Before moving the adoption of the Directors' report and statement of accounts for the year 1907, I shall be happy to answer any questions that may be put relating to the business before the meeting.

There being no questions, the report was adopted on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. ORANGE.

Mr. MACHADO moved, and Mr. DA SILVA seconded, the confirmation of the appointment of Messrs. Shellim, Fuchs, Helms, Slade and Frieland as directors. Agreed to.

Mr. ORANGE proposed that Messrs. Shawan and Slade be re-elected directors.

Mr. MACHADO seconded, and the proposition was carried.

On the motion of Mr. DA SILVA, seconded by Mr. GUZDAR, Messrs. Hutton Potts and A. R. Lowe were re-elected auditors.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. Warrants will be posted this afternoon.

THE HONGKONG HOTEL COMPANY, LIMITED.

The report of the Board of Directors to be presented at the ordinary meeting of shareholders to be held at the Company's Hotel, on March 7th reads:—

To the shareholders of the Hongkong Hotel Company, Limited.

Gentlemen,—In accordance with section 56 of the Articles of Association the directors now beg to submit their report for the half-year ended 31st December, 1907.

ACCOUNTS.

The profit on working account amounted to \$19,292.35 as compared with \$53,999.18 for the corresponding period of 1906, being a decrease of \$14,686.83.

The profit and loss account, including the sum of \$10,925.88, brought forward from 31st June 1907, shows a credit balance of \$49,252.17, which, the directors recommend, should be apportioned as follows:—

To pay a dividend of 7 per cent. for the half year	\$12,000.00
To transfer to repairs and renewals account	7,000.00
To carry forward to new account	252.17
	<hr/> \$49,252.17

DIRECTORS.

The Hon. Mr. E. Osborne retires by rotation, but offers himself for re-election.

AUDIT

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. H. U. J. Fries and A. R. Lowe, C.A., who offer themselves for re-election.

W. HUTTON POTTS,
Chairman.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

For the six months ending 31st December, 1907.	
Dr.	\$ c.
To bad debts and refunds	932.69
To Crown rent	505.92
To rates	2,562.20
To fire insurance	3,787.10
To debenture int. on \$500,000 at 3 per cent. = 15,000.00	
Less returned on debentures held by the Company	2,305.48
	12,694.52
To interest account	6,813.65
To directors' and auditors' fees	3,200.00
To repairs and renewals account, balance as per statement	2,089.11
To balance to be appropriated as follows:—	
To pay a dividend of 7 per cent. = 42,000.00	
To transfer to repairs and renewals account	7,000.00
To carry forward to new account	252.17
	49,252.17
	\$81,867.36

Cr.	\$ c.
By balance from 30th June, 1907	73,834.50
Less dividend at 8 per cent. = \$48,000.00	
Less transferred to repairs and renewals account	10,000.00
Less transferred to furniture & fixtures account 4,958.62	
	62,954.62
By rents of shops and offices, old building	\$5,840.00
By rents of shops and offices, new buildings	4,540.00
By rents of hotel mansions	21,000.00
	31,380.00
By dividends on shares in public companies	221.00
By scrip and transfer fees	13.00
By bad debts and refunds recovered	35.13
By profit on hotel working account for the six months ending 31st December, 1907	39,292.35
	\$81,867.36

REPAIRS AND RENEWALS ACCOUNT

For the six months ending 31st December, 1907.	
Dr.	\$ c.
To payments on account of repairs and renewals during the half-year ending 31st December, 1907	12,000.11
Cr.	\$ c.
By amount transferred from profit and loss account as recommended in last report	10,000.00
By transfer to profit and loss account	2,089.11
	\$12,089.11

BALANCE SHEET,
31st December, 1907

LIABILITIES.		\$ c.
Capital:—		
12,000 shares at \$50 each (fully paid up)		600,000.00
1,000 mortgage debentures 6 per cent.	500,000.00	
Less 152 mortgage debentures held by the company	76,000.00	
		424,000.00
Reserve fund		648,975.78
Sundry creditors		35,558.44
Unclaimed dividends		967.00
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (current account)		255,547.71
Profit and loss account, balance as per statement		49,252.17
		\$2,013,301.10
ASSETS.		\$ c.
Value of Marine lot No. 5 and remaining portion of Marine lot No. 3 and remaining portion of Marine lot No. 7 and buildings thereon, as per last account	\$1,065,380.00	
Since expended on alterations & additions to buildings	9,676.21	
		\$1,075,056.21
Praya Reclamation (Marine lot No. 288)	216,140.00	
Building thereon "Hotel Mansions"	375,752.68	
		621,892.68
Cost of three Chinese Houses on Sections B., C. and D. of Inland lot No. 80	33,000.00	
Cost of Kowloon farm lot No. 3 Section A.	30,926.90	
		1,760,875.79
Furniture and fixtures, as per last account	\$99,958.62	
Less written off, as per last report	4,558.62	
		95,000.00
Since added	21,950.64	
		116,950.64

Installation of Electric light, as per last account	24,000.00
Stock of linen, crockery, glassware, etc.	36,811.92
Stock of wine, provisions, household sundries, and stationery, as per inventories	29,120.39
Shares in public companies	5,796.31
Value of steam launch	5,000.00
Sundry debtors	30,925.79
Licenses attaching to 1908	2,576.67
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (Unclaimed dividends account)	967.00
Cash in hand	276.09
	\$2,013,301.10

RAMIE AT SHANGHAI AND HONGKONG.

The first general meeting of the Eastern Fibre Co. Ltd (to comply with the Hongkong Ordinance) was held at Shanghai on February 26th. Mr. E. S. Little (chairman) made the following interesting statement:—

In the first place, I will call your attention to the fact that within three months after the registration of the company actual work was in progress, which for a new concern is almost a record. Very unfortunately for the company Mr. McGregor Smith, senior, died in Hongkong before any work in bulk could be put through. He had planned to return from Hongkong in order to start the works and see the scheme through to a success. We were, therefore, deprived of his experience and thrown back upon our own resources. When we came to actual operation, we found that it was necessary to modify many of the mechanical appliances, and a considerable amount of time has been occupied in making experiments as to the best method of handling the fibre in bulk. Many of the difficulties have been surmounted, while others are in a fair way of being solved. As regards the percentage of loss and cost of treatment, the works manager is of an opinion that, after the factory has run under ordinary working conditions at least six months, treating various qualities of grass from different districts, the above points will be settled with definite precision and the exact rate ascertained. From the fibre already treated the indications point favourably to results being as already stated in the prospectus of the company.

As regards raw material, there appears to be no doubt but that sufficient quantities will be forthcoming at about the prices calculated.

The question of export duty is occupying the attention of your Directors and is being taken up by the proper authorities in Peking. Bulk samples have been prepared and sent home. 180 lb. have been sold as a sample and forwarded to America, 134 lb. on the same terms to Germany, and about 1,300 lb. have been sent to England. These samples will arrive about a month from this date. In due course reports on the same will be forthcoming. In the opinion of the works manager subsequent lots will be of a better quality than the lots now sent forward, as these are the result of trial tests only. The work has been greatly delayed by a lack of the various mill supplies required in the process. It necessarily takes some time to arrange for these. The directors have received communications from all over the world in reference to ramie, and inquires for yarn quite beyond possibility of the works in their present shape to fill. The following extract from a letter dated London, January 27, 1908, is quoted for general information:—"That a flasse is 'perfectly degummed' can only be ascertained after spinning, weaving and dyeing, and keeping the cloth. On this subject I have some information and have bought it very dearly. What is wanted is yarn. If you will turn your flasse into yarn your market is certain, as the demand for ramie yarn is far in excess of the possible supply of all the existing ramie spinning mills. Having created a demand for ramie fabrics the crucial question is, how to get the yarns to weave with, that is in any quantity, for orders running into hundreds of thousands of yards and absorbing hundreds of tons of yarn. Who is to spin flasse? How many ramie combs are there in England? I think I can tell you. I have studied ramie very thoroughly and can

weave almost anything in ramie and have woven about 100,000 yards of dress goods, tapestries, muslins and canvas of immense breaking strain, for which the orders are likely to be very large." From information received from various quarters it would appear that there are many times more buyers of ramie yarn than ramie flasse. We are advised that there may be some little difficulty at the outset in establishing a market for our product in the form of flasse, but that if the flasse were turned into yarn, it could readily be sold, as there is already a big market and an ever increasing demand for yarn. We are very strongly urged to carry the fibre on to the yarn stage. This would require a considerable increase of capital to lay down a spinning plant. The estimates of probable returns to be obtained from a ramie spinning plant are certainly very tempting. The directors, however, are not prepared to advise this action at present, but prefer to wait for advices from home based upon the bulk samples sent forward. Owing to the fact that there are no machines in the Far East that can treat ramie flasse, we are unable to test the product as we go along, which is a great disadvantage. We cannot, therefore, tell whether the flasse already prepared is in a satisfactory state for the machines, or whether the fibre requires to be treated to a more or less extent. Two local experts in cotton and silk fibres have examined samples from the bulk which have been bleached and combed by hand and state that the product appears to be perfectly degummed and the strength of the fibre unimpaired. Samples examined under a microscope bear out this opinion. We must patiently wait for reports from home and must be guided in the future treatment of the fibre by the nature of those reports. The works are now running daily on a small scale and will not be increased to their full output until we know definitely the requirements of the home markets. Sufficient raw material has been bought or contracted for to keep the company going on a small scale until the new crop comes up, by which time we shall be prepared to enter into definite contracts for the supply of flasse in large quantities. A cablegram has been received from London this morning in reference to the bulk samples which were sent by Siberian mail, January 28, which reads as follows:—

"Experts report that the sample marked 'B' is a very good sample and well degummed flasse, whose fibre is practically uninjured. It is worth c.i.f. London about 8d. to 10d. per lb. Full particulars follow by mail February 19." The sample marked "B" was a bleached lot drawn from the bulk which is now en route to Europe.

LADY LUGARD INDISPOSED.

Lady Lugard was to have distributed the prizes at the Kowloon British School the other day but she was unable to attend and Mr. E. D. Wolf announced that he had received a note from Government House which stated that Lady Lugard was unwell. The doctor had just seen her and had forbidden her to go out that day. She was therefore unable much against her will to fulfil her engagement and present the prizes that morning. Mr. Wolfe expressed regret at Her Excellency's indisposition and suggested that the bouquet of flowers which was to have been presented to her that morning should be forwarded to Government House with an expression of the regret of all those present. Lady Lugard went to Shanghai a couple of days later, for the benefit of the sea trip.

The "Sinwupao" states that Lord Li Ching-fang, Chinese Minister in London, has recently telegraphed to the Waiwupu stating that, in view of the action of the United States in reducing their share of the Boxer Indemnity, some members of the British Parliament are of opinion that the British Government should accede to the request of Chinese to hand back Weihaiwei. It is reported that the members of the Waiwupu were gratified by the news.

COMMERCIAL.

COAL.

From Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s Report, dated Shanghai, 27th February, 1908. Japan:—There has been some slight demand in this market during the past fortnight, but buyers' ideas of prices have declined somewhat and not much business has resulted. Stocks of the commoner kinds have increased in Shanghai recently but stocks of all kinds in Japan are short as ever and prices just as firm. Cardiff:—Some slight inquiry, but prices asked seem to be too high.

RAW COTTON.

Hongkong, 6th March.—Small sales at a slight decline. Stock about 3,500 bales.
 Bombay.....\$20.00 to \$21.00 per pel.
 Bengal (New), Rangoon
 and Dacca 21.00 to 25.15 ..
 Shanghai and Japanese 27.00 to 27.15 ..
 Tunchow and Ningpo 27.00 to 27.15 ..
 Reported sales, 100 bales.

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee, in his Report dated Hongkong 6th March, 1908, states:—A moderate enquiry has continued throughout the past fortnight, and a fairly large quantity of goods has gone into consumption. Prices, however, show little or no change, but there is a hardening tendency for best qualities while common kinds are steady. Low counts are in better request and after a long interval No. 8s have found purchasers. At the close buyers are holding off and there is very little doing at the moment, but considering the condition of the Shanghai market as well as Bombay, the gradual and steady decrease of stocks here, and restricted supplies, the outlook appears to be far from discouraging. We close quiet but firm. Sales of the fortnight aggregate 5,061 bales, arrivals amount to 9,525, unsold stock estimated at 27,000 and sold but uncleared stock in second hands at 20,000 bales. Local Manufacture:—There is no change to note in our local mill quotations which are steady at \$91 for No. 10s, at which about 200 bales are reported sold, as well as 50 bales No. 8s at \$80. Japanese Yarn:—Continues to move slowly; the business of the interval includes the sale of 50 bales No. 16s at \$118, and of 310 bales No. 20s at from \$135. Raw Cotton:—Demand has considerably subsided, and with the exception of sales of 65 bales superfine New Bengals at \$24 and 88 bales old Bengals at \$19, and of 50 bales Thoonchow at \$24, no further business can be induced. Estimated unsold stock 3,155 bales Indian, and 470 bales (small) China. Quotations are \$22 to \$24 Indian and \$22 to \$24 Chinese. Exchange on India, after considerable fluctuations, closes unsteady to-day at Rs. 14½ for T.T. and Rs. 142 for Post. On Shanghai 74½ and on Japan 92½. The under-noted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the three weeks ended the 29th ultimo, viz.:—Indian:—Market active, sales about 10,500 bales at unaltered prices, closing firm. Estimated unsold stock 63,000 bales. Japanese:—There has been more doing in these threads and sales of about 2,000 bales have been made at somewhat easier rates, say Tls. 86 to 93½ for No. 16s and Tls. 95½ to 104 for No. 20s. Local:—Are in more enquiry, but no business from first hands has been reported.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Report, dated Shanghai, February 27th, 1908, states:—The most predominant feature of the week is the continued slackness in the demand for the heavier makes of American goods. True there are still a good many in the hands of the dealers here that have already been paid for, but with the departure of the Northern steamers so near, in the ordinary course more enquiry would undoubtedly have been felt. The American trade has unquestionably received a blow it will take long to recover from, and if the latest development which is reported to be now on foot for the furtherance of the Japanese trade, namely the formation of a lottery, by which (we presume the lucky buyers of certain market bundles of yarn, or pieces of cloth, will be entitled to a prize is allowed to go the gambling spirit of the natives will be very strongly appealed to. The high prices of American and British goods that have prevailed for so long have fostered competition by manufacturers in the Far East, which can only be successfully met by a recurrence of the 3½ to 4½. Adverse advices from the north have delayed the despatch of the

regular trading steamers to Tientsin for a few days, but it is expected one will leave here on the 1st prox. According to information we gather from the dealers that shipments of Piece Goods are likely to be smaller than ever this season, but so far we can glean no particulars. It is said a little more has been doing for Newchwang in American Sheetings. It is not very encouraging to read that the progressive views of the recently appointed Governor of Moukden are being discouraged, and that he is being superseded already. Szechuen is the most promising market so far, but the River markets are not doing at all badly. Chefoo and Kia-chow are both doing a steady but quiet business. Corea is very quiet, the course of exchange not seeming to suit that market. Manchester is quietly sagging, the stoppage in the demand for India and the small amount of business booked ahead for this market making manufacturers anxious to obtain orders, and counter offers from this side, even at very considerable reductions, have been accepted. The Spinners have apparently been obliged to turn once more to their old supporters, the home weavers, by reducing the large margin of profits they were making, though weavers who do their own spinning seem to be still in the best position to execute orders, thus giving an irregular appearance to the cloth market. In spite of the recrudescence of the Sully scare, which threatened to put American Cotton up to 9d., the market in Liverpool is going lower and lower, until this morning's quotation was inside 6d., namely 5.9½d. 'Futures' yesterday were 5.60d. when 'spot' was 6.04d. Egyptian is also steadily declining 8½d being the price received to-day. This has already made a great difference in the quotations received for Venetians and other goods made from that cotton. The New York market continues pretty stiff and we do not hear of any further transactions for this. The latest cotton quotations are 10.44 cents and 10.66 cents for March and May option respectively. The orders booked so far this season for this market are said to be 10,000 bales. The yarn market is more active, the steadier appearance of exchange during the interval giving operators more confidence. Both Indian and Japanese spinnings show more demand at firmer prices. Native Cotton keeps very steady. A fairly good enquiry is being met with for Manchester goods in stock, and in view of the easier conditions prevailing in that market importers who hold supplies are taking every benefit of it, and in some cases replacing their sales on more advantageous terms. As we have often remarked before it is difficult to glean particulars of these transactions, but we understand they are chiefly in heavy grey and bleached goods. At the Auctions the market on the whole has been towards firmer prices.

From Messrs. Ilbert & Co.'s weekly Report dated Shanghai, February 27th, 1908: A moderate amount of business has been done during the week principally in grey and white shirtings, and also in various kinds of dyed goods; sellers are realizing the latter as opportunity offers, apparently having come to the conclusion that material advances are not likely to be forthcoming in the near future. The most satisfactory markets have been the River Ports and Ningpo; trade with Chefoo and Tsingtao has been quieter after the greater activity of last week; Korea is also waiting for reports on recent shipments, but the disappointing feature is the absence of demand from Tientsin. Newchwang and Manchuria generally. The harvest last year in the last-named provinces was excellent, railway development has been vigorously prosecuted in the region for which Dalny, or Dairen as it is now called, is the port of entry; it is estimated that plant to the value of over £3,000,000 was landed there in the latter half of last year, but the trade both in foreign imports and native manufactures is dull and dragging. Under present conditions no permanent improvement can be looked for, and when this is realized in the producing centres which have been relying for expansion of trade upon fair competition in this important market there will be keen disappointment. American cotton has been weak latterly although anything over 6d. per lb. must be looked upon as a high standard; Egyptian is also declining, but even now is relatively dear in comparison with American, judged by the standard of former years. Local cotton remains steady; shipments to Japan since September already exceed the total export of last season. Grey Shirtings 8½-lb.—The market has continued fairly active during the interval and a good deal of cargo has changed hands, prices being steady to firm all round. Auction prices were practically the same as last week. 9-lb. to 11-lb.—There has been a steady demand, prin-

cipally for 10-lb. cloths during the week and holders have been able to establish an advance in prices in several cases. Prices at auction were firm though one or two chops went for slightly lower figures. 12-lb. 36-in.—Demand from the Yangtze markets continues brisk and about 27,000 pieces are reported to have been sold:—T.Cloths.—Dealers are still showing but little interest in these. Prices improved slightly at auction. Jeans.—These seem to have slackened off for the time being; our market, however, is nevertheless steady. Auction chops advanced about 2½ candareens. White Shirtings.—There has been a fair amount of business done for the Hankow market, while inquiry for Korea has somewhat fallen away. At auction the lower qualities were rather easier, but a short advance took place in the case of the better qualities. Drills and Sheetings.—We have to report a very quiet market with little inquiry to speak of, prices all round being nominally unchanged. Dyed and Fancy Cottons.—Both Figured and Plain East Black Cotton Lastings are reported to have been sold from first hands in fair quantity, the business being confined to the lower qualities. Fast Black Cotton Lastings were easier at the auctions. Worsteds and Woollens.—Market firm all round, but no private sales affected. Lastings and Camlets were firm at the auctions, and Spanish Stripes and Long Ells steady. Cotton.—Quotations for the local staple have undergone but little change, and the market continues quiet. Yarn.—Indian and Japanese Spinings have recovered some of their lost ground during the week and the market is firmer at the close for all counts. Local Yarn is also steadier and clearances have been very fair.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

Hongkong, March, 1908.

There is no material change to report. Business is being done on a moderate scale with a slight variation in prices in favour of the buyers. Quotations are:—No. 10s. at \$87 to \$101; No. 16s. at \$95 to \$131, and No. 20s. at \$103 to \$135. Arrivals 9,500 bales; sales 6,000 bales; Shipments 1,500 bales; Bargains 24,000 bales. Unsold stock 24,000 sales.

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s ... — to —
 English—Nos. 16 to 24 ... — to —
 " 22 to 24 ... — to —
 " 28 to 32 ... — to —
 " 38 to 42 ... — to —

Carpas Piece Goods—Small sales; Market quiet and weak.

Grey Shirtings—7 lbs. \$2.40 to \$2.60
 8 ½ lbs. 3.35 to 4.25
 9 to 10 lbs. 4.10 to 5.35
 White Shirtings—54 to 56 in. 2.80 to 3.80
 58 to 60 " 4.00 to 6.50
 64 to 66 " 6.50 to 9.60
 Fine 7.35 to 9.60
 Book-folds 5.50 to 6.50
 Victoria Lawns—12 yards ... 6.54 to 1.30
 T.Cloths—6 lbs. 32 in. (Ord'y) 2.00 to 2.20
 7 lbs. 32 " " 2.35 to 3.35
 6 lbs. 32 " (Mexs)
 7 lbs. 32 " " 2.75 to 4.00
 8 to 8 ½ oz. (36 in) 2.90 to 4.20

Drills, English—40 yds. } 4.50 to 5.35
 13½ to 14½ }

Fancy Carpas—Fair sales; Market strong

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 2 } \$1.85 to \$4.15
 6 lbs. } per yard

Broccos—Dyed \$0.23 to \$0.37
 Chintzes—Assorted 0.11 to 0.30
 Velvets—Black, 22 in. 0.30 to 0.55
 Velvetens—18 in. 0.23 to 0.30

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk \$0.15 to \$1.20
 Woollens—No sales; Market quiet.

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops \$0.72½ to \$0.97½
 German, per yard

Habit, Medium & Broad Cloths, 1.90 to 3.00

Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs. ... \$7.35 to \$9.00

Assorted 7.50 to 9.15

Camlets—Assorted 9.00 to 31.00

Lastings—30 yds. 31 inches } 14.00 to 21.00
 Assorted }

Orleans—Plain per lb.

Blankets—8 to 12 lbs. \$0.65 to \$0.83

Metals—

Iron—Nail Rod \$4.15

Square, Flat, Round Bar (Eng.) ... 4.10

Swedish Bar 4.20

Small Round Rod 4.45

Hoop, 5½ to 11½ in. 5.60

Wire, 16/25 oz. 9.20

Old Wire Rope 3.00

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending 23rd February, 1908, states:—The week's business since our last issue has been very moderate, but rates on the whole have remained fairly steady. T. T. to-day is 2/6½. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks have been sold locally at \$715 at exchange 73, and have also been imported from Hongkong at \$700 with Hongkong exchange. Insurance.—Yangtze Insurance. A small lot of new shares changed hands at \$140. Shipping.—There is nothing reported this week. Docks and Wharves.—Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co. These shares have ruled weaker since our last. On the 26th the rates were Tls. 83½ for cash and Tls. 85 for March, and have gradually declined to Tls. 81 for cash and Tls. 82 for March. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co. A fair business has been done on the basis of Tls. 214 to Tls. 215 for cash and Tls. 216/217 for March. For June and September delivery business has been done at from Tls. 218 to 220 closing with buyers. Sugars.—Nothing reported. Mining.—Chinese Engineering and Mining shares, bearer, have been dealt in at Tls. 16. Lands.—Shanghai Lands. A fair quantity have changed hands at Tls 103 ex dividend closing with sellers. Industrial.—Ewos have declined to Tls. 56 for cash and Tls. 57 for March. Shanghai Gas Co. There are sellers at Tls. 108. China Flour Mills have improved to Tls. 49½ for cash and Tls. 50 for March, closing with buyers. Maatschap, &c., in Langkats. The market has been very quiet during the week, and rates have not varied. At closing we quote Tls. 420 cash and Tls. 427½ for March delivery, buyers. Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co. Sales have been made at Tls. 130 for cash and Tls. 132½ March. Shanghai Waterworks. The new shares have improved to Tls. 370. Miscellaneous.—Hall & Holtz Shares have been in demand and there are buyers at \$22½. Astor House Hotels have been placed at \$22½. Shanghai Horse Bazaars have been inquired for at Tls. 40. Shanghai Mutual Telephone. Sales have been made at Tls. 53 and there are further buyers. Loans and Debentures.—Shanghai Land six per cents have changed hands at Tls. 98½.

HONGKONG, 6th March, 1908.—Our market has ruled somewhat quieter during the past week, but rates on the whole have been fairly well maintained, and with few exceptions close steady. Exchange on London closes at 110½ T.T., and on Shanghai at 74½ T.T. The Bank of England rate of discount has been reduced to 3½ per cent, and the market rate for 3 months' bills to 3½ per cent.

BANKS.—Hongkong & Shanghai have ruled steady at the slightly reduced rate of \$69½ at which several transactions are reported. The London quotation is now £76. Nationals have not been dealt in, and are unchanged.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions were booked in the early part of the week at \$250, but close somewhat easier with sellers at the rate. North Chinas have sellers at Tls. 85, and Cantons at \$240. China Traders & Yangtzes are unchanged.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs are quiet with probable small sellers at \$332½. Chinas, after payment of the dividend and bonus of \$8 per share, are now quoted at \$89 with probable sellers.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been booked at \$2½ at which rate a few shares are obtainable. Indo-Chinas have declined to \$37½ and \$25½ for preferred and deferred combined, at which rate sales have been effected. China and Manilas are procurable at \$14, and Douglases at \$40. Star Ferries continue in request at \$25 and \$12½ for the old and new issues respectively. Shells are unchanged at 45¢ and without business.

REFINERIES.—Sales of China Sugars are reported at \$11½ and \$11½, but at the close the market is easier with sellers at \$113, it being generally understood that no dividend will be paid for last year's working. Lurons could probably be placed at \$15.

MINING.—Charbonnages continue in request, and at the enhanced rate of \$530 business could be done. Raubs have been freely dealt in at \$8 and \$8½, and close with probable buyers at the former rate.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been booked at \$35 and \$36, and close with buyers at the higher rate. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves close steady at \$54 and \$52½ for the old and new issues respectively, after sales at these rates and at \$55 and \$53½. Shanghai Docks are easier in the North with sellers at Tls. 80. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves are steady at last quotation, viz. Tls. 214.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been booked at \$100 and \$100½, closing with sellers at \$100. Kowloon Lands are on offer at \$27 and Humphreys' Estates at \$104. Hongkong Hotels are procurable at the reduced rate of \$103.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos are easier in the North at Tls. 55. Other stocks under this heading are unchanged and without business.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Borneos have been booked at \$11 and \$10½, and close with buyers at the latter rate. Dairy Farms are wanted at \$16, and Electrics at \$14½. Green Island Cements close steady at \$11½ at which rate fair sales have been effected. China Providents are procurable at \$9, and Ropes at \$26. Hongkong Milling shares have again been booked at \$15½. Langkats are easier with sellers in the North at Tls. 42½.

Quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	Ps. 200	Nominal
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	\$695, sales
National B. of China	26	\$51
Bell's Asbestos E. A. A.	12s. 6d.	\$7½, buyers
China-Borneo Co.		\$12 \$11, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	(\$10)	\$5½, sellers
China Provident	(\$1)	\$9, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 56	Tls. 55
Hongkong		\$10 \$9, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 55
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 75
Soychow	Tls. 500	Tls. 270
Dairy Farm		\$6 \$16, buyers
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	(\$52)
H. & W. Dock		\$50 \$96, buyers
New Amoy Dock		\$6½ \$10
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co. Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 80
Shai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 214
Fenwick & Co. (Genl.)	\$25	\$14, sellers
G. Island Cement		\$10 \$11½
Hongkong & C. Gas	210	\$175
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$14½, buyers
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$103, sellers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$22½, x d.
H. K. Milling Co. Ltd.	\$100	\$150, sales
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$10	\$26, sales & buy.
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$240, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$89, x d.
China Traders	\$25	\$91, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$332½
North China	25	Tls. 85, sellers
Union	\$100	\$850, sellers
Yangtze	\$30	(\$147)
Land and Buildings—		
Hkong Land Invest.	\$100	\$101, sellers
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$10, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$27, sellers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 100
West Point Building	\$50	\$48, buyers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	250	\$525, buyers
Raubs	18 10	\$8
Peak Tramways		\$10 \$13
Philippine Co.		\$10 \$7
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$113, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$15
Steamship Companies—		
China and Manila	\$25	\$14, sellers
Douglases Steamship	\$70	\$40
H. Canton & M.	\$15	\$28½, sellers
IndoChina S. N. Co.	25	(\$37) sales
		(\$25) sales
Shell Transport Co.	21	45
Star Ferry	\$10	\$25, buyers
Do New	25	\$124, buyers
South China M. Post	\$25	\$20
Steam Laundry Co.	25	\$6, sellers
Stores & Dispensaries—		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$17
Powell & Co. Wm.		\$10 \$5
Watkins		\$10 \$24
Watson & Co. A. S.		\$10 \$10
Wiesmann Ltd.	\$100	\$165
United Asbestos	\$5	\$10, buyers
The Founders	\$0	\$10, buyers
Union Waterboat Co.	\$10	\$10, sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, March 6th

ON LONDON.—Telegraphic Transfer	1/10½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/10½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/10½
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	1/10½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/11½
ON PARIS —	
Bank Bills, on demand	237½
Credits 4 months' sight	243
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	193
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	47
Credits, 60 days' sight	47
ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer	141½
Bank, on demand	142
ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer	141½
Bank on demand	142
ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight	74½
Private, 30 days' sight	75½
ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand	92½
ON MANILA.—On demand	92½
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	22½ p.m.
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	113½
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	6½ p.m.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	6½ p.m.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	7½
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$10.45
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$ 5.34
BAR SILVER, per oz	25½

SUBSIDIARY COINS.

	per cent
Chinese 20 cents pieces	83.32 discount,
" 10 " " "	8.50 "
Hongkong 20 " " "	7.85 "
" 10 " " "	8.00 "

FREIGHTS

Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s Report, dated Shanghai 27th February, 1908, has the following: The stagnation in our Homeward Freight Market still continues; it is very difficult to say when things are likely to improve and we must confess that the prospects are very remote for some time to come. Coastwise: There has been a little more movement amongst shipping during the past fortnight, but things can hardly be said to have improved as there is still plenty of tonnage seeking employment and coast rates have not advanced to any extent.

SHIPPING

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

February—	ARRIVALS.
27, Hilary, German str., from Saigon.	
27, Hongmoh, British str., from Panang.	
27, Liang-how, British str., from Wuhu.	
27, Shikoku Maru, Japanese str., from Takau.	
28, Aldenham, Br. str., from Australian Ports.	
28, Clara Jebson, Ger. str., from Saigon.	
28, Fau-sang, British str., from Saigon.	
28, Fume, German str., from Haiphong.	
28, Haitan, French str., from Hoihow.	
28, Hangsang, British str., from Shanghai.	
28, Mandaran M., Jap. str., from Kuchinotzu.	
28, Mathillo, German str., from Haiphong.	
28, Palma, British str., from London.	
28, Proteus, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.	
28, Sa-lia, German str., from Singapore.	
28, St-tin, British str., from Singapore.	
28, Taming, British str., from Manila.	
29, Daiya Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.	
29, Kiukiang, British str., from Shanghai.	
29, Onsaug, British str., from Java.	
29, Pathan, British str., from Liverpool.	
29, Shoshu Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.	
29, Traquebar, Dan. str., from Copenhagen.	
29, Tungshing, British str., from W'u.	
29, Wongkai, German str., from Bangkok.	
March	
1, Ajax, British str., from Liverpool.	
1, Berneo, British str., from London.	
1, Chilli, British str., from Haiphong.	
1, Fri, Norwegian str., from Phranang.	
1, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.	
1, Han-i, French str., from Haiphong.	
1, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.	
1, Paklat, German str., from Bangkok.	
1, Petchaburi, German str., from Bangkok.	
1, Sikh, British str., from New York.	

- 1, Standard, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
- 1, Taiwan, British str., from Saigon.
- 1, Tjimahi, Dutch str., from Macassar.
- 2, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
- 2, Choising, German str., from Bangkok.
- 2, Courfield, British str., from Chinwantao.
- 2, Ernest Simons, Fr. str., from Yokohama.
- 2, Fukushima Maru, Jap. str., from Anping.
- 2, Hellas, German str., from Saigon.
- 2, Kawachi Maru, Japanese str., from Kobe.
- 2, Knivsberg, German str., from Swatow.
- 2, Kyoto Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
- 2, Pitsanulok, German str., from Saigon.
- 2, Polynesien, French str., from Marseilles.
- 2, Taiyuan, British str., from Sydney.
- 3, Belgravia, German str., from Hamburg.
- 3, Catherine Apar, Br. str., from Calcutta.
- 3, Feiching, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
- 3, Hopsang, British str., from Saigon.
- 3, Kashima Maru, Jap. str., from Rangoon.
- 3, Kohsichang, German str., from Bangkok.
- 3, Mineola, British str., from Singapore.
- 3, Prinz Ludwig, German str., from Bremen.
- 3, Prinz Sigismund, Ger. str., from Kobe.
- 3, Prometheus, Norw. str., from Bangkok.
- 3, Takasaki Maru, Jap. str., from Bombay.
- 3, Waishing, British str., from Chinkiang.
- 3, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
- 4, Aughin, German str., from Saigon.
- 4, Arabia, German str., from Portland.
- 4, Ascot, British str., from Moji.
- 4, Feiching, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 4, Haimun, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 4, Ithaka, German str., from Wuhu.
- 4, Joshin Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
- 4, Kennebec, British str., from Shanghai.
- 4, Kyoto Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
- 4, Shansi, British str., from Shanghai.
- 4, Skramstad, Norwegian str., from Takau.
- 4, Socotra, British str., from Yokohama.
- 5, Choysang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 5, Hanchow, British str., from Chinkiang.
- 5, Inaba Maru, Japanese str., from London.
- 5, Marmora, British str., from Bombay.
- 5, Samsen, German str., from Saigon.
- 5, Triumph, German str., from Haiphong.
- 5, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.

February— DEPARTURES.

- 27, Benmohr, British str., for Nagasaki.
- 27, Chiyeun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 27, Haiching, British str., for Coast Ports.
- 27, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
- 27, Satsuma, British str., for Shanghai.
- 27, Yoneyama Maru, Jap. str., for Saigon.
- 29, Arratoon Apar, Brit. str., for Shanghai.
- 29, Asia, British str., for San Francisco.
- 29, Childar, Norwegian str., for Swatow.
- 29, Chowtai, German str., for Swatow.
- 29, Eastern, Brit. str., for Australian Ports.
- 29, Hongkong, French str., for K. C. Wan.
- 29, Laissang, British str., for Singapore.
- 29, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
- 29, Shawmut, Am. str., for Moji & Tacoma.
- 29, Stettin, British str., for Shanghai.

March—

- 1, Aldenham, British str., for Moji.
- 1, Cyclops, British str., for Saigon.
- 1, Dagny, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
- 1, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
- 1, Hailan, French str., for Hoibow.
- 1, Hardinge, Brit. transport, for Singapore.
- 1, Hongmoh, British str., for Amoy.
- 1, Huichow, British str., for Weihaiwei.
- 1, Hupeh, British str., for Hoibow.
- 1, Itsukushima Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.
- 1, Mandasan M., Jap. str., for Kuchinotzu.
- 1, Nanshan, British str., for Saigon.
- 1, Pathan, British str., for Yokohama.
- 1, Rajaburi, German str., for Hoibow.
- 1, Victoria, Swedish str., for Saigon.
- 1, Yochow, British str., for Shanghai.
- 2, Ajax, British str., for Shanghai.
- 2, Fri, Norwegian str., for Macao.
- 2, Polynesien, French str., for Shanghai.
- 2, Tranquebar, Danish str., for Shanghai.
- 2, Wakamatsu M., Jap. str., for Nagasaki.
- 3, Aki Maru, Japanese str., for Shanghai.
- 3, Borneo, British str., for Shanghai.
- 3, Ernest Simons, Fr. str., for Europe, &c.
- 3, Hailan, British str., for Coast Ports.
- 3, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
- 3, Knivsberg, German str., for K. C. Wan.
- 3, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 3, Mathilde, German str., for Haiphong.
- 3, Palma, British str., for Yokohama.
- 3, Pheumpenh, British str., for Saigon.
- 3, Prinz Sigismund, Ger. str., for Sydney.

- 3, Shikoku Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
- 3, Sikh, British str., for Shanghai.
- 3, Taming, British str., for Manila.
- 4, Gregory Apar, Brit. str., for Singapore.
- 4, Haliotis, Dutch str., for Tarakan.
- 4, Hopsang, British str., for Niagpo.
- 4, Johanne, German str., for Haiphong.
- 4, Kashima Maru, Jap. str., for Keelung.
- 4, Kawachi Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
- 4, Prinz Ludwig, Ger. str., for Shanghai.
- 4, Proteus, Norwegian str., for Swatow.
- 4, Sambia, German str., for Shanghai.
- 4, Stoshu Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.

PASSENGERS.
ARRIVED.

Per *Aldenham*, from Australia, &c., for Hongkong, Messrs. P. Harvey, A. Keating, A. J. Meldrum, R. Harada, S. Otani, C. A. Graves, and H. Wright; for Kobe, Mr and Mrs Nelson and maid, Mrs J. H. Leon, Mrs Shepherd and child, and Mr J. Tatch; for Yokohama, Miss D. Frames.

Per *Taiyuan*, from Sydney, &c., Mr and Mrs Blechyrider and 3 children, Mr and Mrs Langford, Capt. and Mrs Davidson, Miss McMahon, Messrs. Smith, E. Newman, G. Chamier, C. E. Levein, J. B. Holloway, J. Swannill, and T. O. Connell.

Per *Marmora*, for Hongkong, from London, Mr and Mrs C. Dendy Marshall, Mr and Mrs E. Stocks Massey, Dr. Mrs and Miss Clayton, Mrs Gordon Thomson, Miss G. Guthrie, Miss Holmes, Lt. F. Noble, Lt. H. Atlay, Engr. Lt. Murray, Asst. Paymaster Carroll, Messrs. W. Tilley, L. de La Rue, Rossiter, H. Gilley, and G. Buchanan; from Marseilles, Mr and Mrs Sturges, Mr and Mrs Mackay Bernard, Col. and Miss Taham, Mrs and Miss Donnelly, Mrs Willis, Misses Evans, N. Evans, Price, Marshall, and F. Nation, Rev. T. P. Hampson, Dr. J. Thomson, and Mr G. Mackie; from Gibraltar, Mr and Mrs H. St. Clair, and Miss Doughty; from Brindisi, Dr. and Mrs L. Clive, Mrs F. Abbott, Mrs W. Bean, Mrs M. Crosley, Mrs A. Wright, Mrs G. Scott, Misses A. Steele, L. Pyfens, and J. Robinson; from Colombo, Mr, Mrs and Miss Wilding, Miss Mahles, Messrs. R. Remfry, G. Baxter, and G. Johnson; from Penang, Mr and Mrs Laidlay, Rev. B. O. Gabriel, Rev. Bro. Kearan; from Singapore, Mr and Mrs De Rey, Mr and Mrs P. L. Sergeant, Mrs M. Praed, Mrs Farrer Baynes, Miss Riches, Miss Hamilton, Messrs. Dagdale, Jackson and servant, H. Depars, E. Anthony, B. Barnett, P. Rahli, A. Kenney, W. Everett, N. North, S. Padgett, E. Baker, R. Whitten, A. Whitting, and D. Madero.

Per *Ernest Simons*, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Mr Chapelain; from Kobe, Mr Arima, Misses Okamisan, and Kito; from Shanghai, Mr and Mrs Connell, Mr and Mrs T. Smith & 2 boys, Dr. Gavitt, Dr. Fan, Messrs. Wolfenden, Oldorp, Helson, Bryan, Eydaat, and L. Martin; for Saigon, from Shanghai, Mrs Deborah, Messrs. Abraham, and Defusco; for Singapore, from Kobe, Miss Ominosan; from Shanghai, Messrs. Polenski, Janet, and Ferrand; from Colombo, from Kobe, Mr H. Hyer; for Marseilles, from Yokohama, Mrs Kaneko, 2 infants and amah, Messrs. Hirokichi Makaya, H. Futakami, Tamegoro Hasegawa, Nauelaerts, and Carpentier; from Shanghai, Mr and Mrs Tronillet and baby, Mr and Mrs Monahan and 2 infants, Mr and Mrs Sutter and infant, Mrs Banmann, Mrs Eyasean & servant, Miss Marin, Messrs. Anderson, Castanet, Gaillard, Hovem, Fleuret, Charvel, & H. Prario.

Per *Polynesien*, for Hongkong, from Colombo, Mr and Mrs Beatty, Messrs. Giffard, L. L'as, and l'Abbe Tour; from Singapore, Mr and Mrs Lecomte, Mr and Mrs R. Ortmann, Mrs Davis, Mrs Hibitt, Col. Brown, Messrs. Aubry, des Metunieres, Ajud, and d'Allemagne; from Saigon, Messrs. Starder, Louis Windsor, L. Chitchamony, Speidel, Meffmann, and Le F. Dominique; for Shanghai, from Marseilles, Mr and Mrs Henriot, Mrs Ruff, Messrs. Hardy, Kehl, & Boonlepp; from Singapore, Mrs Felton, Mrs Abram & infant; from Saigon, Mrs Estter, Messrs. G. H. Baring, René Golan, P. F. Gros and Reig; for Kobe, from Saigon, Mrs Otatsu and Mr Hard; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Messrs. Liebert, Hortet, Humbert Claude, Chemasser, and Finhoff; from Colombo, Mr and Mrs J. Walker; from Singapore, Mr Sukuhi; from Saigon, Messrs. B. an, and le C. Faucon.

Per *Prinz Sigismund*, from Kobe, Mr. Maddison and child.

Per *Zafiro*, from Manila, Mrs Baldwin and 2 children, Mrs Keltorn, Mrs H. C. D. Jones, Dr. F. Clark, Dr. N. Black, Dr. Keith, Dr. F. D. Chester, Dr. H. Hayes, Dr. C. E. Strite, Dr. Fraser, Lieut. C. Rayley, Lieut. Williams, Lieut. Chamberlain, Sir A. Perry, Master P. Jones, Messrs. A. E. Robinson, T. B. de Rosa, J. G. Dyer, Bramble, A. Paquet, F. Lammert, F. Beckman, E. C. Jones, P. M. Coyle, E. Briss, Dehman and infant.

Per *Prinz Ludwig*, for Hongkong, from Southampton, Mrs Birkett, Misses J. E. Dunk, H. Thompson, and Hunter, Messrs. L. J. Thomas, G. Sachs, and T. G. Bloxsidge; from Genoa, Miss K. Watney, Dr. Victor Schooh, Rev. W. C. Clapp, Messrs. Snowman, B. Krause, J. Lohmann, W. Adelmann, Ferd. Wenzel, Ad. Maack, Fritz Grein, Willy Keesner, Ludwig Rhodes, R. Herridge, Paul Scherer, Franz Albrecht, Ludwig Schaper, Paul Hüniger, and Curt Lorenz; from Naples, Mr Wilb. Jaeger; from Port Said, Mr Ed. Eissner; from Colombo, Dr. Stefan Popowitz, Messrs. Maak Firth, Owen Hughes, Geo. Compere, O. A. D. Böhlau, F. H. Cummer, Malcolm McHill, Davies, and Palmer; from Penang, Messrs. T. A. Dorn, and C. Wick; from Singapore, Mrs G. Webb, Mrs G. Gratix, Misses Cumisky, Steeds, & Latham, Dr. O. H. Wilson, Dr. H. Ginsberg, Dr. F. Ginsberg, Rev. D. Klinefelter, Messrs. Frank Goodnon, Troml, J. Paterson, George Smith, A. G. Kent Johnson, Dir. Nath, R. F. Lamba, and Ernst Blanke.

DEPARTED.

Per *Eastern*, for Australian Ports, Mr, Mrs and Miss Cole, Mr and Mrs White, child and nurse, Mrs Mead, Misses Chubb, Ford, Huxham, and Marilyn, Inspector Kerr, Messrs. J. T. Bell, J. R. Bertram, J. B. Desborough, J. F. Duff, W. Gallagher, W. Lawrie, T. Mervin, and H. E. Victor.

Per *Polynesien*, for Shanghai, Mr and Mrs W. F. Tyler, Messrs. Nicolaides, Madano, and T. O'Connell; for Yokohama, Mr Limoge.

Per *Ernest Simons*, for Saigon, Mr and Mrs Parry, Mrs P. Brion, Rev. P. Souillard, Messrs. S. R. Ismail, & Osmin Laporte; for Singapore, Messrs. Perkins, and A. Domminger; for Port Said, Mr Jofet Stefan; for Marseilles, Mr and Mrs Dupré and family, Mrs Lapoujude & baby, Rev. P. Chaplain, Messrs. Soulange Teisser, P. W. Chain, Oggerie Secondo, L. Guntzberger, Blanc, Will, Baudet, and René Katz.

Per *Prinz Ludwig*, for Shanghai, Mr and Mrs D. Y. Gutmann, Baron Harthausen, Messrs. F. R. Vida, Charles R. Graves, Wallem, H. Peiser, Ernst Guttentag, G. E. Goode, H. D. Page, C. B. Evington, G. W. Nisevo, C. McKay, E. Samande, and S. L. Svenson; for Nagasaki, Dr. Moorhead; for Yokohama, Mr and Mrs Isakson, Mr and Mrs H. Heuneberger, Mrs Ahlers, and Mr O. Blad.

Per *Prinz Sigismund*, for Australia, &c., Mr and Mrs J. H. Parker, Mr and Mrs Thoe. Sanders, Mr and Mrs W. Welman, Mr and Mrs Generalconsulats-sekretar Troml, Mrs Brikett, Mrs J. Huff, Miss C. Huff, Miss M. Huff, Rev. C. Clapp, Rev. D. Klinefelter, Dr. Charles D. Thomson, Dr. Jur Wertheimer, Messrs. Franz Albrecht, Eduard Eissner, Finnell, Frank Goodnow and party, Fritz Grein, J. R. Herridge, Paul Huenger, Hauptmann Ingenohl, Wilhelm Jaeger, Jupp, Willy Keesner, Joh. Lohmann, Adolf Maack, Ludwig Rhodes, Paul Scherer, Polizeimeister Ludwig Schaper, F. C. Donnison, and Ferd. Wenzel.

Per *Asia*, for San Francisco via Ports, Mr and Mrs J. R. Cook, Mr and Mrs Bardetti, Rev. and Mrs A. B. de Rosa and 2 children, Consul and Mrs Nightingale, Mrs C. H. Boyd and infant, Mrs Musgrave infant and nurse, Mrs M. E. Hibbard, Mrs J. Arnold, Mrs S. G. French, Mrs M. S. Garman, Misses Risely, E. Tittje, and I. McKay, Rev. G. H. Bonfield, Major V. Elsie, Messrs. A. Mackillop, C. D. Wilkinson, W. Wilkinson, O. Thorsen, R. S. Kernigan, R. H. Risely, B. F. Erhman, A. G. Wood, H. N. Nowell, Cecil H. Brunner, E. F. O'Neill, W. M. White, J. Kimmelman, A. Piercy, E. Clarke, Geo. Lammert, F. K. Ritson, J. Buck, S. B. Shirley, and A. M. W. Bodry.

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